

Disability Now

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Going for gold: British squad alpine skiers Christine Blackmore (left), Graham Nugent (centre) and Matthew Stockford took off for the 1992 Winter Paralympics in Albertville, France last month. They were spurred on by a Royal Mail donation of £40,000, a commemorative stamp and a TV Challenge Anika commercial.

FIONA HANSON/PRESS ASSOCIATION

Social Fund slammed, yet again

The Social Fund - which gives grants and loans to disabled people on a low income - has been criticised as unfair, inadequate and a lottery by the Government's own advisers.

The report, from the Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC), an independent body which advises the Social Services Secretary, was followed by a Government announcement that the Social Fund would get another £25 million.

This is the third increase in a year and a rise of nearly £75 million over last April's figure. It brings the budget for 1992/3 up to £302 million.

SSAC chairman Peter Barclay, president of the National Institute of Social Work, said: "The Committee has long been concerned that the Social Fund budget was inadequate to meet

sufficient need. Whichever Government is in power after the election, there is no doubt that urgent attention will have to be paid to improving it."

He says his proposals could cost over £500 million.

The SSAC wants a radical overhaul of how the Fund works. "Whenever there is pressure on the local social security office budget, those whose applications are considered of lesser importance may be refused help. At other times of the year, or in another area, the same application may have been accepted."

Continued on page 3

Literacy scheme launches

Twenty-six disabled and able-bodied people who have difficulties reading and writing have set up the UK's first residential centre for basic adult and community education in Yorkshire.

Pecket Well College held three open days last month and hopes to run its first courses in May. It has eight residential places and is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Trust.

"We have dreamt of creating this college for seven years," said founder member Joe Flanagan. "We met while taking basic education classes in Calderdale and decided to set up a college where people with learning difficulties would have more say in the way courses were run."

"We will ask people what they want to learn and listen to

Continued on page 2

Budget: main gains

Pensioners and charities both got something out of the Chancellor's pre-Election budget last month. Here are the main gains.

* From 1 October, income support for single pensioners up by £2 a week, for married couples by £3 a week. This will be added to the increases coming into force in April (DN, December 1991).

* Higher tax allowances for older pensioners. Single pensioners age 65-74 can now earn up to £4,200 before paying tax. Married couples' allowance rises to £2,465. Single pensioners age 75 and over can earn £4,370, and married couples over 75 have their allowance raised to £2,505.

* Limit on how much pensioners can earn before losing higher age allowance rises to £14,200.

* VAT reliefs for charities and disabled people: zero rating on the repair and maintenance of equipment used by the Royal

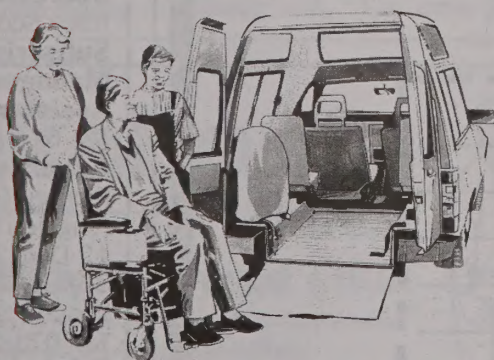
National Institute for the Blind's talking books service; the provision of toilets in any charity-run building used for charitable purposes; and boats built or substantially adapted for disabled people. Entire package worth up to £3 million in a year.

* New lower rate tax band of 20p on first £2,000 of taxable income. All income tax payers to benefit by an average £2.64 a week.

* From 1 July, minimum amount that can be paid to charity through the Gift Aid scheme (which allows tax relief on one-off donations) falls from £600 to £400. Charities Aid Foundation said more people would be able to use the scheme, and charities could benefit by up to £100 million a year.

* Charities Tax Reform Group "bitterly disappointed" at no concession on VAT for charities, which, they estimate, costs them £250 million a year.

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lanes; time limits can be imposed at on-street parking bays reserved for disabled people; councils are given the power to refuse a badge if they think the applicant is not the person they claim to be, or will let another person use it.

Tim Shapley, secretary of the Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People, said: "We welcome the new rules, but I think the eligibility criteria for

the badge should have been made tougher. I am also concerned that the Government has not put its foot down and stopped local authorities from running their own local parking schemes which undermine the principles of the scheme."

For two free leaflets on the changes, please send SAE to RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.



DN art critic and sculptor Adam Reynolds married Isabelle King in February.

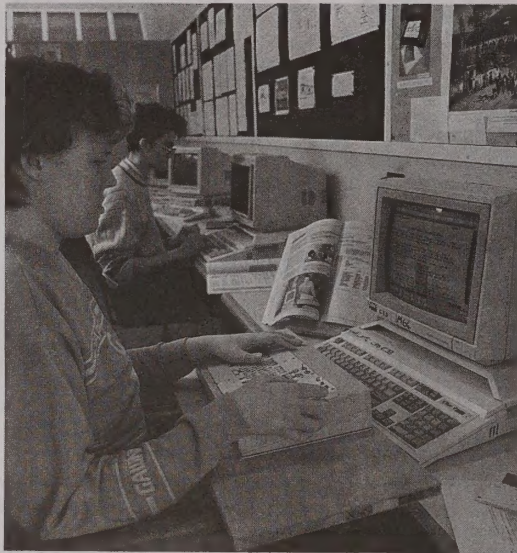
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Acorn

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Literacy scheme launches

Continued from page 1

what they have to say and then act on it."

The centre is wheelchair accessible and will have induction loops, tactile warnings, sign language interpreters and a creche.

Tel: (0422) 347665.

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

Lin Berwick, DN's telephone counsellor, herself disabled, can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (04024) 77582.

Disability Now

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No communication=no rights

The civil rights of nearly eight million people in Britain with hearing and sight difficulties are being ignored, says a new report.

The Commission of Enquiry into Human Aids to Communication was set up in 1990 by the British Association of the Hard of Hearing, the British Deaf Association, the National Deaf Children's Society and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

Its first report, published last month, calls on the Government, local authorities and voluntary groups to set up 30 "Communication Support Units" (CSUs) for people who are profoundly deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

These would be able to provide every area of Britain with sign language interpreters, lip speakers and people who can produce computerised transcriptions.

Communication is your Responsibility also calls on the Government to fund a five-year interpreter training pro-



Angelos Elias (left) with Canadian speech and language pathologist Catherine Wiseman at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People's Poolemead Centre near Bath. The residential unit must raise £200,000 by December if it is to stay open.

ROB COUSINS

gramme. Commission chairperson, Lady Marre, said: "For many deaf people there is no point attending public meetings, the theatre or college

because an interpreter is rarely present. This amounts to neglect and denial of very basic human and civil rights on a scandalous scale."

Summary available free from the National Deaf Children's Society, 45 Hereford Road, London W2 5AH. Full report, £15, from the same address.

Counsellors lose jobs

The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) axed its counselling service last month, making five staff redundant.

Spokesman Tony Britton said the charity was forced to cut the service because of the recession.

"It was a difficult decision, but we had no other option if we were to retain a healthy financial base.

"Through cost-cutting we have brought our deficit down to £100,000, but we need to bring it down to £10,000 by next year."

The decision has infuriated Kath Pickin, from Bingley, West Yorkshire, who has worked for the charity for seven years.

"This is a tragedy," she said. "I am very angry. We did an important job helping people deal with a wide range of problems. Many of these people now feel devastated.

"I know ASBAH had to make cut-backs, but I'm sure it could have made cuts in administration instead."

But Mr Britton said this wasn't possible. "We considered making savings in administration but there was no fat to cut there."

He added that, despite the cuts, the charity had not abandoned its counselling work. "Our field workers will be able to do some counselling and we can also bring in outside agencies to help us."

New SOS

The Stars Organisation for Spastics has changed its name to The SOS.

The SOS chairman Bob Monkhouse commented: "It's not a sudden decision but one that has been worked towards over five years.

"Members have listened, learned and understood problems with the word 'spastic'."

Victory in Taxicard war

Wandsworth Council in London has dropped controversial plans to force Taxicard users to give up their free travel passes following angry protests by disabled residents.

The Conservative-controlled council, which levies no poll tax and has already enraged disabled groups by charging people £10 for their Taxicards, ditched the plans after dozens

of complaints.

A council spokesperson said: "We were originally advised that if you are profoundly disabled you can't use public transport, but now realise that this is not the case and will provide travel passes to people who can assure us they can use buses, tubes or trains."

But, she added, the borough would stand by its decision to

make disabled people pay for their Taxicard.

Ann Byrne of Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard Users (DaRT) said: "I am delighted the council has done a U-turn. We now want them to drop the Taxicard charge as well."

"Surely, if they had set a poll tax bill, then this £10 charge would not have been necessary."

Social Fund slammed

Continued from page 1

It says any revised scheme must ensure that those on income support who are eligible for a grant will get it.

It also recommends: abolishing the current system of discretionary payments; replacing loans with grants; introducing

"start-up" grants, at least £500, to claimants on income support with little or no savings facing domestic emergencies; and grants for some people starting work.

Peter Barclay called the proposals "affordable, moderate and necessary".

Sally Witcher of Disability Alliance said: "The extra £35

million will not solve the Fund's problems. It must be demand-led, not budget-led".

Minister for Social Security and Disabled People Nicholas Scott welcomed the report but will take no action until he has seen the York University study due later this year.

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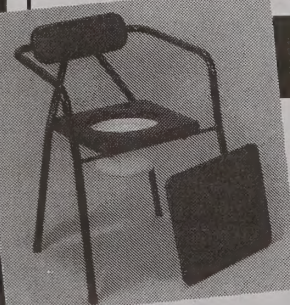
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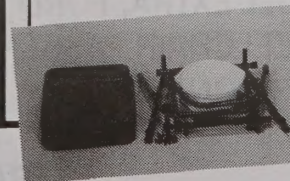


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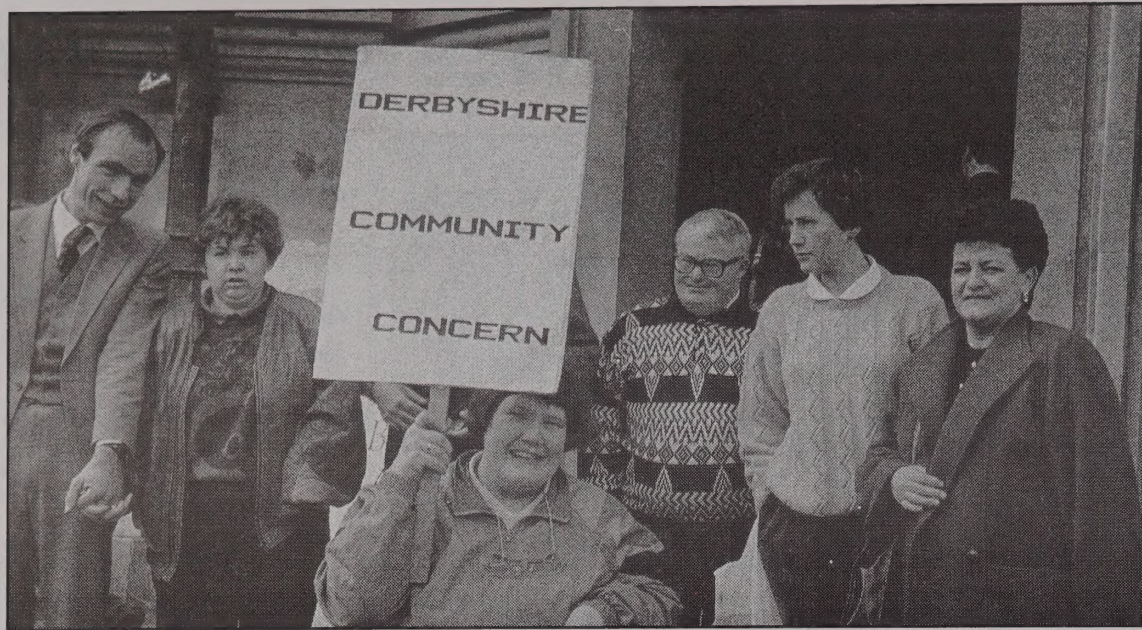
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Disabled people and carers from Derbyshire Community Concern protesting at Westminster in March against changes in the benefits regulations which stop disabled people living with close relatives from claiming an extra £31.25 a week severe disability premium. TRACY SCOLLIN

More cash for TECs

Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) are to get more Government money to help pay for the extra expense of special needs training.

TECs - private companies that fund training - will get the money according to their budgets and the number of trainees with special needs who achieve

basic literacy and numeracy qualifications.

The announcement followed intensive lobbying by SKILL - The National Bureau of Students with Disabilities.

SKILL director John Curtis said: "This is an important step forward because the way funding has been organised, with its

emphasis on getting National Vocational Qualifications or a permanent job, has been an impediment to people with special needs".

"I am pleased the Government has accepted that there needs to be more flexibility in recognising the achievements of disabled people."

Bill lies in waiting for Labour

Baroness Lockwood (Lab) guided the Civil Rights Bill to an unopposed second reading in the Lords in February.

"It is a victory that we have taken the bill this far," she said. "I have indicated my wish

to keep the bill on the record and to take it forward to committee stage during the next Parliament."

Another attempt by Alf Morris, shadow spokesman on disability, to secure a second

reading for the same Bill in the Commons was blocked by a Government whip.

"This is not the end," said Mr Morris. "Labour will introduce a similar measure when we win the election."

Council tax discounts

Some carers will get a 25 per cent discount on the new council tax, replacing the poll tax.

Government Minister Lady Blatch announced the concession in an amendment to the Local Government Finance Bill in February.

The discount is limited to full-time carers living with a disabled person who receives the higher rate of attendance allowance.

Carers who are spouses or partners of the disabled person, or the parent of a disabled child under 18, will not get it.

The move followed lobbying by the Carers National Association, the Alzheimer's Disease

Society and MENCAP.

Diane Gaston of the Carers National Association said: "This is the first time outside of the social security system that a Government has formally recognised the extra financial burden faced by disabled people and their carers".

Also in the same bill, the Government had to accept an opposition amendment over the way the council tax will be applied to people with severe mental impairments.

The amendment rules that they shall not be jointly or separately liable for an unpaid bill if the person they live with defaults on payment.

What became law

Four important acts for disabled people were passed by Parliament before it broke up for the election.

The Further and Higher Education Act removes further education colleges and sixth form colleges from local education authority control and sets up funding councils.

The councils must find students with learning difficulties up to the age of 25 a suitable course. They also have to provide independent living and communication skills courses which lead to a vocation or academic course (including lip-reading and braille courses).

Under the Competition and Services (Utilities) Act, disabled people who receive help from social services with the cost of a phone will no longer

have to pay a deposit. And disabled people who need their gas or water meter moved will have the job done free.

The Education (Schools) Act introduces league tables to compare schools' examination performances, and increases the power of Her Majesty's Inspectorate. The Government's education spokesperson in the Lords has assured Deaf Accord that all inspections will include someone with expertise in special needs.

The Charities Act regulates the activities of professional fund-raisers and commercial participators while they are raising money for charities, updates the rules relating to collections in public places, and increases the powers of the Charity Commissioners.



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Computer shopping

A computer memory aid to help people with learning difficulties shop for themselves has been developed by researchers at Keele University.

The Educational Micro-Electronic Memory Aid (EMMA) enables residents who live in group homes to decide what items to buy and in what quantities.

EMMA does this by display-

ing a picture list of groceries on its screen, and asking residents to indicate whether or not each item is in stock.

The computer calculates which goods need to be bought. Then it prints out a pictorial shopping list that is ordered according to where the goods are found in the local supermarket.

Project leader Sue Newberry-Tarrier, who won a British Computer Society Social Benefits Medal for designing EMMA, said: "Our aim with EMMA is to make

people with learning difficulties more independent. Residents have in the past found it difficult to produce a shopping list, but this machine makes it easier for them.

"We have tried out the computer in two group homes for six months and have been delighted with the results.

"One resident who needed help with 26 per cent of grocery purchases without the computer, needed help with only six per cent when she used EMMA."

EMMA is being produced

by Newberry-Tarrier Ltd at a price of around £1,000.

Sue Newberry-Tarrier, tel: (0283) 68254.

Life-saving drug treatments

A new study by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) shows that hormonal treat-

ments and cell-killing drugs given after surgery could save the lives of 1,000 women with breast cancer in Britain each year.

The research, involving 75,000 women worldwide, was carried out by the ICRF's Cancer Studies Unit in Oxford.

According to the study, ovarian ablation - a drug treatment which stops the ovaries producing oestrogen - reduces deaths in younger women: 57 per cent of women who had ovarian ablation survived ten years compared with 47 per cent who did not.

Two other beneficial treatments identified were chemotherapy and the oestrogen blocking drug tamoxifen.

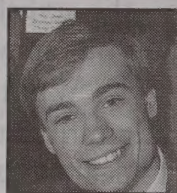
With tamoxifen, for example, 50 per cent of women who had the drug were alive after ten years compared with 42 per cent who hadn't. It also prevented breast cancer developing in the second breast.

Unit deputy director, Ian Fentiman, said: "A lot more women will now get offered these life-saving treatments because of this study.

"In the past many doctors thought the treatments probably didn't have any effect on survival, but our study shows that if just one million are given the additional treatments then there will be about an extra 100,000 who survive ten years after diagnosis."

Hold the front spool

A new device to help visually impaired people produce their own talking newspapers has been



developed by an engineering student from York University.

Nicholas Maylon (above), who helps produce a talking magazine in York, invented the Audio Peak Indication System after being told by a listener about the difficulties many visually impaired people have trying to judge sound levels.

The device is placed between the recorder and amplifier and produces a warning noise when the sound level of a recording is too high. This noise can only be heard by the user and does not affect the recording.

The system won a British Aerospace Design Award for engineering excellence in February. It is easy to install and can be used with virtually all recording equipment.

Mr Maylon said: "My device provides an audio alternative to the visual meters sighted people use while recording."

Mr Maylon said several firms were interested in the device, which he expects to sell for about £30.

Nicholas Maylon, Electronics Department, York University, Heslington, York YO1 5DP.

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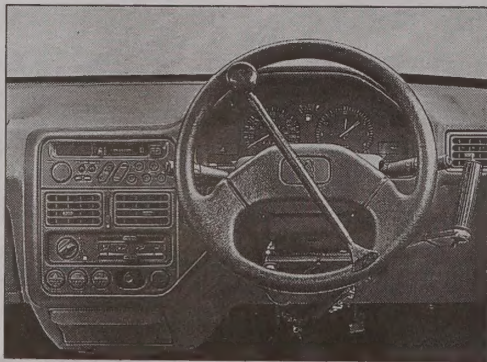
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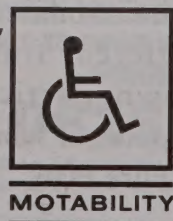
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IN BRIEF

Missing woman dead

Jo Ramsden, the 21-year-old disabled woman who disappeared last April, was found dead last month. Miss Ramsden, who had Down's Syndrome, was discovered 12 miles away from her home in Bridport, Dorset by forestry workers.



Police want to talk to the man she was last seen with: he is described as being in his late 20s, 5ft 5in, with fair hair, and was wearing a brown jumper with a "zig-zag" pattern.

Police, tel: (0305) 251212.

Holiday helpers closed

In spite of hundreds of applications from disabled people and potential helpers, the Holiday Helpers service has been closed.

Director of the Holiday Care Service Maundy Todd said: "The severe recession is putting great pressure on our core business of information provision, and there is no specific funding awarded for Holiday Helpers".

The service is very labour intensive, she said, yet in the first two months of this year it has managed only two matches.

Plans to re-open depend on the economic climate improving and a re-think of how to provide a more effective service.

Only 2,700 miles to go

Two men who have recovered from cancer are to travel round Britain's coastline to raise money for the Cancer Research Campaign.

Eric Leclezio, 26, from Mauritius, is to do the 2,700 miles in a wheelchair, while Ted Rayner, 65, drives the back-up. They set off from Greenwich on 23 May and hope to complete the trip in five months.

Organisers are appealing for the loan of a motor home, and help with food and petrol costs.

Tel: 071-630 0864.

Help for relatives

A new association for relatives and friends of elderly people in residential and private homes was launched in February.

The Relatives Association will give information and advice, as well as campaigning on behalf of its members.

Tel: 071-201 9153.

Corrections

For the Rollhouse greenhouse from Consumer Direct (DN, March), tel: (0296) 75217.

The Care Home of the Year Award should have read "The Care Weekly Care Home of the Year Award."

Patients 'know best'

Hospital staff must learn to work in partnership with disabled patients and stop adopting a "we know best" attitude, says a new charter drawn up by disabled people and doctors.

A Charter for Disabled People Using Hospitals, by the Prince of Wales' Advisory Group on Disability and the Royal College of Physicians, says disabled people face "negative attitudes and surprisingly inaccessible environments" when going in for routine treatments unrelated to their disability.

Hospital staff need to distinguish between managing an illness and working with a disabled person. And they must recognise that a person who lives with a disability is usually much better informed about it than anyone else.

Hospitals should be made accessible to all (including parking, clear signposts, etc).

Staff should also: ask disabled people about their needs before they arrive, or, in emergencies, at the time of admission; encourage disabled people to bring their own equipment, such as wheelchairs, with them; provide any additional equipment that will increase their independence; and make sure equal opportunities policies are understood by all staff.

To help achieve this, the Charter recommends more disability awareness training for staff, and a senior manager in every hospital with the money and authority to put good disability policy into practice. It also includes standard audit forms for hospitals to assess their current provision.

£5 plus £1 p&sp, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE.



Wendy Lowe, clerical assistant, is one of eight disabled people taken on under Barnet Council's Job Access Scheme. Employed initially on short-term contracts, the Council aims to place them in permanent jobs, if available. JOHN R RIFKIN

Society celebrates

The Spastics Society launched a £2 million appeal in March to celebrate its fortieth birthday.

"Forty at 40" links the Society with other companies, organisations and celebrities who are 40 in 1992, including Brooke Bond D tea makers, the National Film Theatre (NFT), and the *New Musical Express*.

Each of the partners will work to raise money for the Society and to raise awareness of people with cerebral palsy.

Events for the year include a week of 1952 films at the NFT, and a six-a-side soccer match between famous 40-year-old

cricketers. People are also being asked to give something up for Lent and send the money to the Society.

Andy Berry, chairman of the Society's marketing committee, said: "We are proud to be celebrating 40 years of progress, and hope people will support our appeal and prove that life really does begin at 40."

To donate, please ring the credit card hotline, tel: 071-323 3551 or send a cheque made payable to The Spastics Society Forty at 40, to The Spastics Society, 21 Conway Street, London W1P 5HL.

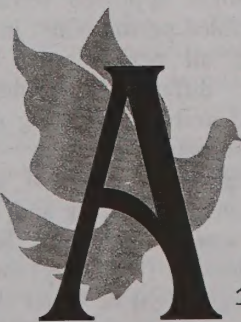


Minister for the Arts, Tim Renton, with Ellen de Lange of the International Wheelchair Tennis Association, at the 1992 Arts Access (The National Association for Improving Arts Access for Disabled People) award in February. Mr Renton is sitting in the prize, an electric wheelchair, which went to the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery "for showing the greatest awareness of the needs of disabled people".

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Vote '92 X

Which party will do most for

DN armed three well-known people in the disability field with the same key questions and let them loose on the disability spokesmen of each major party. Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott talked to Jane Campbell, joint chair of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP). Labour's shadow spokesman on disability, Alf Morris, talked to Bert Massie, director of The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR). And the Liberal Democrat spokesman on local government and community care, David Bellotti, met broadcaster and *In Touch* presenter Peter White.

Abbreviations: C for Conservative, L for Labour, LD for Liberal Democrat.

Anti-discrimination law
In 1990, the all-party Employment Select Committee called on the Government to "explore urgently the possibility of equal opportunity legislation for the employment of disabled people". Does your party have a timetable for introducing anti-discrimination legislation?

C: It doesn't. "I'm not philosophically opposed to the idea of anti-discrimination legislation ... I'm quite neutral about the idea. I'd like to give persuasion and education and raising of awareness another chance to work but, in the long run, if I didn't think we had been making sufficiently rapid progress, I certainly wouldn't rule out the possibility of legislation."

Reminded that all organisations of and for disabled people felt that persuasion and awareness had been tried thoroughly and failed, he said: "I have seen substantial progress being made not just in employment, but in awareness of the needs of disabled people in access both to buildings and transport ... let's give, for at least a year or two, a chance for the approach which I favour to show it can work".

L: Labour will introduce a civil rights law that goes beyond employment.

"Our legislation will be comprehensive legislation to outlaw a very definite wrong against disabled people. It is difficult for me at the moment to give you a timetable for introduc-

tion of legislation since much will depend on issues that arise between now and the Election, what kind of majority we have if we are in government ... I can say that I believe this is a matter of very high priority and I have shown that by seeking to legislate even before we become a Labour government."

LD: "It's important that people who have disabilities are able to play a full part in society and must not be marginalised, and therefore I think the Bill of Rights should contain the legislation which would make it unlawful to discriminate against a person with a disability."

Pressed on the danger of disabled people's needs being lost sight of in a general piece of legislation, he pointed to other European countries where equal opportunities legislation had been achieved in this way. "If the Liberal Democrats are in a position of influence it will come early."

Poverty

Disabled people are generally poor and there are often extra costs if you are disabled. What is a reasonable standard of living for a disabled person and how will your party help disabled people achieve it?

C: Difficult to define a reasonable standard of living for a disabled person since everyone's needs are different.

"Over the period of this Government we have massively increased expenditure on meeting the needs of disabled people."

Attendance Allowance has risen to £1.5 billion; Mobility Allowance to £1 billion a year; Invalid Care Allowance now covers 130,000 people. From April, two new benefits, Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance "will mean an extra £300,000 on top of the £12 billion or so now being spent".

Mr Scott prefers "incremental progress" to "wiping the slate clean and starting again".

On safeguarding money for community care, starting April 1993: "My colleagues in government tend to be pretty resistant to ... ring-fencing or specific grants. They'd much prefer to say to the local authorities 'Here is a sum of money, it is your responsibility ... to deploy as you see fit.'"

L: Acknowledges the poverty of many disabled people and is committed to helping them through a disability income.

"Our new comprehensive disability benefit will provide assistance with the extra costs of disability - with payment matched to the level of disabili-

ty rather than its cause or the age of the claimant when it happened", says Labour's policy statement. "It will also supply a guaranteed income without means tests for disabled people of working age who are unable to work."

No time scale has been given. "We cannot do everything at once. We will have to move in proportion to priorities ... starting with the most severely disabled ... We believe there are important savings as well as costs, and that the savings that accrue from having a proper disability income scheme are too often ignored..."



Alf Morris, Labour spokesman for disabled people's rights

LD: Accepts the principle that being disabled costs money and as a stop-gap measure would favour some kind of disability income.

But "Liberal Democrats have proposals to integrate taxation and benefits. And within that it's important to see that disabled people are provided for in a proper way." In other words, tax credits.

Health services

Will your party guarantee that health services and equipment most appropriate to a disabled person's needs will be supplied free, as of right?

C: Difficult to give a blanket answer, particularly since technological developments are often quite expensive. "I would want to see, in so far as is possible, the necessary equipment provided for disabled people to meet their needs free of charge."

He agreed it would be more cost effective and empowering to provide an outdoor electric wheelchair rather than a home help. But, "at the moment, the government approach towards the disabled person is not in an holistic, all person way, but with different agencies, national and local, having different responsibilities".

Charging for essential services, such as dressing and toileting was a matter for local authorities. A (hopefully) modest charge might be better than providing no service at all.

L: Yes. On providing more

expensive high performance and powered wheelchairs under the NHS: "We recognise the importance of these aids and they will have a high priority under the Labour government". But no timetable could be given.

LD: Accepts the principle that the provision of care by the health service should be appropriate, even if that means it is expensive and long term.

"When you come to a high cost need in health care, then that need has to be met, and therefore if a person with a disability has an exceptionally high cost for health care, that should be met. It's not cost that should be put first, but the quality of service and the needs of the individual."

"If people vote for us they are going to vote for a party which will levy taxes to meet the needs of the services which will have to be delivered ... We have a commitment to help people with disabilities and I could not conceive of a Liberal Democratic government which didn't have that as the highest priority."

Choosing where to live

Disabled people often have no choice about where they live - in the community or in residential care. The number of homes built or adapted for disabled people has fallen from nearly 9,000 in 1979 to 723 in 1990 (Department of Environment figures). What would your party do about this?

C: Ideally, all new houses should be accessible. "It would cost very little to make sure that, when you are building a house from scratch, it is accessible."

Meanwhile, adaptations can be made: the Department of Environment is revising the Disabled Facilities Grant.

Altering existing legislation to allow local authorities to make direct payments to disabled people so they could employ their own personal assistants "will have to be discussed in the light of 1993 ... My personal inclination would be to maximise that sort of provision because I've seen what a dramatic impact it can have on the lives of disabled people."

There are no plans for the Independent Living Fund (ILF) to be transferred to the social security system.

L: Contrasts the way housing for disabled people was rising before 1979 under Labour and has now plummeted. Disabled people can only have choice if they are offered a range of housing they can use and given enough money to enable them to live in the community.

Labour would introduce legislation to force private developers to ensure their houses are

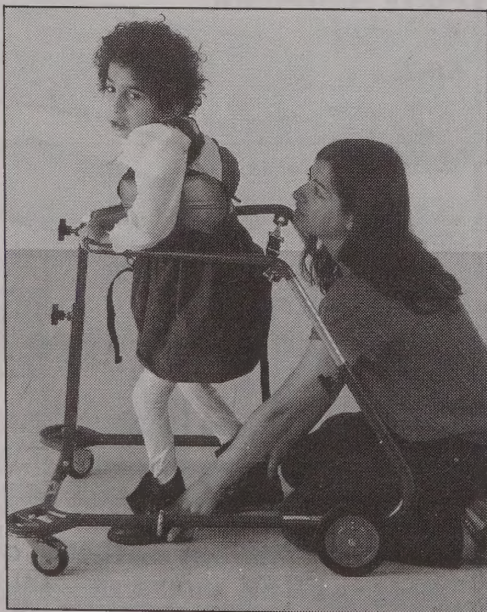
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Jane Campbell would like to thank Neil Harvey for his assistance in producing her article.

disabled people and carers?

Vote '92



designed to be useable by disabled people.

The ILF would be brought into the social security system. But many of the special schemes would be unnecessary if there was a "proper comprehensive disability income."

LD: "One of the ways of achieving choice in the very



David Bellotti, Liberal Democrat spokesman on local government and community care

short term is that the Government could say that the £7 billion that local authorities have got tied up in their housing receipts, which the Government will not let them use, should be released immediately, and local authorities should be allowed to spend that money to provide housing. Then, of course, the housing needs of people with disabilities ought to figure prominently."

He also criticised the Government's plans to transfer money from the Department of Social Security to the local authorities, so that they could meet their new responsibilities of paying for residential care.

"Within the last month, they've announced that the actual amount of money they'll allocate can't be announced until November. That will give local authorities just four months to tailor their plans to the sum of money. Well, that's absolutely ridiculous; we would cost the plans, then allocate the money."

Integrating children with special needs

The principle of integrating children with special educational needs into mainstream schools is enshrined in the 1981 Education Act. Yet integration is not forging ahead; parents believe statementing is geared to resources rather than need; and the Education Reform Act with its emphasis on results, is seen as another set back. What will your party do about these things?

C: "Integration remains the main thrust of the policy. Some local authorities have done very well; others have done not very well at all ... and may need some extra encouragement."

"There will obviously be a need for a limited number of

young people to have some of their education in a segregated environment." Special school pupils spending some days in mainstream schools seems "in many cases ... quite a good solution".

On the fall in numbers going to mainstream schools, Mr Scott was "slightly nervous about that statistic. I'm not saying that it is necessarily wrong, but it doesn't accord with my subjective experience."

L: "Local authorities were given responsibilities without resources. That is why there has been such a patchy scene here since 1981 ... It is vitally important that we give local authorities adequate resources to carry out their legal duties and integrate disabled people - they cannot do it otherwise."

LD: "Liberal Democrats have in their budget proposals this year a figure of £2 billion extra for education and training, and within those sums of money is a very large amount to help ensure that any children who need extra educational help actually get it." They are willing to raise income tax by 1p in the pound to fund this.

Money for higher education courses for disabled people should be ring-fenced. "Under the Government's proposals, colleges of education are now moving towards independent status, and when that happens, they're not likely to decide to spend on high cost provision courses, when they can provide more courses at lower cost; and so the area of special needs will suffer unless you specifically allocate that money."

Transport

Accessible public transport is essential if disabled people are to hold jobs and have leisure opportunities like everyone else. What plans does your party have to improve access in the next five years?

C: Much has been done, eg accessible taxis, low-loader buses, "but there manifestly is a long way to go ... commuter trains ... accessibility of stations ... we have a huge problem with the London Underground".

"It is just getting people to think, when they sit down with their piece of paper and start designing ... awareness is at the heart of most of our problems".

L: Inaccessible transport amounts to institutional discrimination which is unacceptable. Labour would introduce legislation over several years to ensure that public transport was made accessible to disabled people.

LD: Having seen the difficulties of a blind person at a small BR station, he believes there should always be someone on

duty at every station. He wants requirements for accessible buses to be enforced at the manufacturing stage and more emphasis put on training public transport staff.

Carers

Do you think carers are getting enough help?

C: "We would all like to do more for carers. During this government, we have introduced a carers' premium. The number of people getting Invalid Care Allowance rose from 5,000 to 125,000 and the earnings disregard for ICA has increased from £12 to £40."

L: No. Labour plans to replace Invalid Care Allowance with a



Nicholas Scott, Tory Minister for Disabled People

Carers' Benefit paid at the full pension rate (£50-60 a week) and to require local authorities to set up a carers' unit to develop a package of services for carers and a carers' register.

LD: No. There should be more recognition that carers are doing the government's job for them. More respite care should be made available. "If a person was a registered carer, the integrated tax and benefit system which we propose would give them a benefit. The benefit, of course, should be related to their wealth and other income."

Arts and sport

Should it be a condition of public funding that arts and sports organisations make their premises and services accessible to disabled people?

C: "I think there is a difficulty about that because you would no doubt, at least in the short term, cut off an awful lot of very attractive and desirable arts provision."

"Encouragement and funding" is the way, tackling older buildings case by case, with some financial support from ADAPT, and perhaps local authorities or their own trustees.

"We are beginning to make progress although not at the speed you would wish."

L: Supports the American initiative, that organisations receiving central government funding should have to make

their premises accessible. The Government should do everything in its power to make sure disabled people are not excluded from any activity to which they are contributing as taxpayers.

LD: Yes. In the case of new buildings, planning permission should be withheld if the necessary conditions weren't planned for. "I think that the only way at the end of the day that you achieve anything is by legislation. Certainly every new facility should have that built in. If it does, then I think that the attitudes of the people there will change."

Voting opportunities

What is your party doing to ensure that disabled people can vote in elections?

C: Government colleagues have been contacted "to try to make sure that polling stations are accessible to disabled people."

Disabled people are being urged to check if their local polling station will be accessible, and if not then to use a proxy or postal vote. Mr Scott wants election literature available in large print, braille and on cassette.

Would he speak only at accessible venues? "I never lose an opportunity ... to see whether the place I'm at is accessible and to raise the question of accessibility with the owners or controllers of the building. You can't exercise choice if you are physically denied the ability to get or enter somewhere. I'm an untir-

ing campaigner for that."


L: If they were elected, Labour would fund local authorities to ensure that polling stations were accessible and ring-fence the funding so that it is used for that purpose.

LD: David Bellotti has co-sponsored an early-day motion in the Commons to persuade the Government to do more to help disabled people vote.

"There ought to be the opportunity through the voluntary organisations and the local authorities for everyone with a disability to have all the information that's necessary before they make up their mind and have ease of access when actually casting their vote. Everything, for example, should be on tape and in braille."

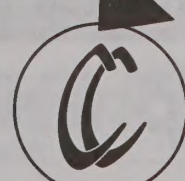
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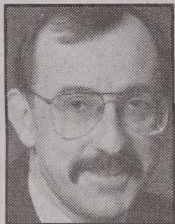
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Disabled voters holding

When *DN* wanted to find out what disabled voters' election hopes were, we were quoted £15,000 to £17,000 for a survey by three leading polling organisations. As a charity newspaper, we could not afford that - nor could anyone else we asked. Undeterred, and believing in the importance of getting your views to the top of the political agenda, we did our own poll of disabled voters in three marginal constituencies - Bolton North East, Edinburgh West, and Kingswood

Kingswood, Avon

Kingswood has become famous in disability history. It was from here, on 31 January 1992, that the Conservative MP Robert Hayward, himself disabled, came to talk out the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill. Now his disabled constituents can punish him through the ballot box. Will they do it?



Having boosted his 1983 majority of 1,797 to 4,393 in 1987, Mr Hayward seems to be doing something right. Of 16 disabled voters questioned, seven thought disabled people's quality of life was about the same since the Tories came to power in 1979, six thought it was better, with only three saying it was worse.

Derek Yelland, who became disabled four years ago, said: "I have been more than pleased with the assistance I have received: appliances, a disabled toilet and shower installed, and the benefits".

But Mr Hayward's performance during the civil rights debate hasn't gone down so well. Jean Gamblin of the Kingswood Council for Disabled People joked: "I could have shot him".

"I can see in some ways that as he's an active disabled person he has yet to learn about the non-active side of MS. His disease could take a turn for the worse and he could then wish he would have helped disabled people."

John Crossland reasoned: "I'm sure that it was a purely political move, rather than a practical one".

Despite these feelings, when asked how discrimination against disabled people could be stopped, only seven people opted for "a mixture of law and persuasion", with nine people choosing "education and persuasion alone" (the Conservative Party policy).

These views were echoed when we asked what the best

thing any Government could give disabled people was. Only three people wanted a law against discrimination. Three wanted bigger benefits and five wanted education and training.

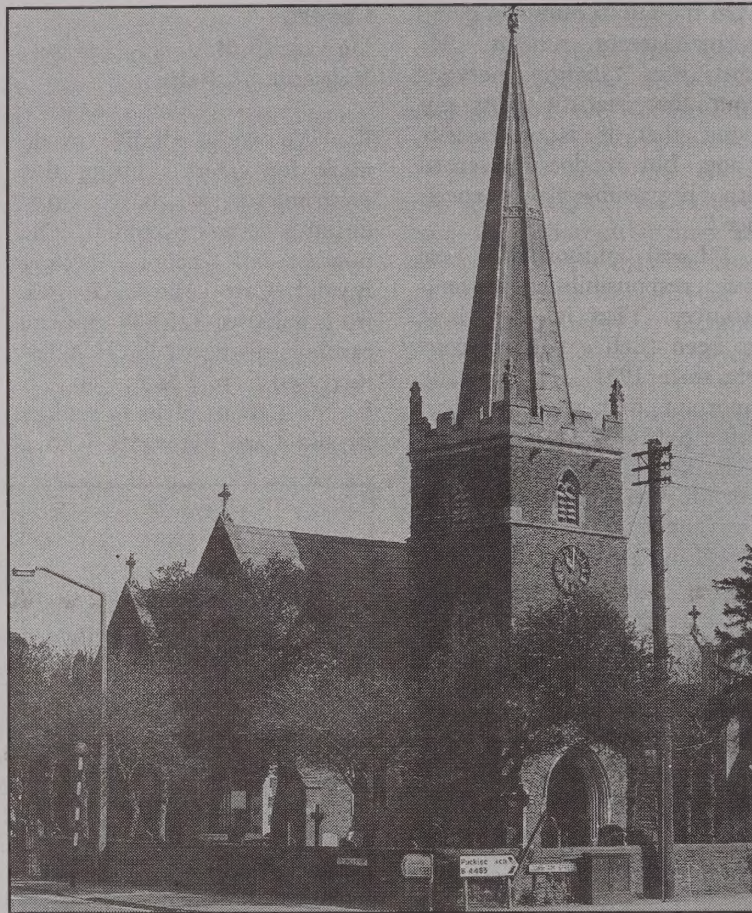
problems of disabled people brought a mixed response. Seven people thought targeting benefits more accurately was the way, and five wanted benefits in general raised. Only

Kingswood a Labour target. They won't get much comfort from our respondents' reckoning of their performance on the NHS though. Six people thought the Liberal Democrats would provide the best health service, four opted for Labour only two for the Tories, one person opting for none of them, two don't know and one wouldn't say.

On the NHS, Mike Willcox, who is starting his own business, thought: "The Tories have made a bit of a cock-up. Labour might pour a lot of money into it, but it might not be that efficient. The Liberal Democrats seem to have their feet on the ground."

Mr Hayward won't get a good night's sleep from our respondents' voting intentions either - five people pledged to vote Conservative, three went for the Liberal Democrats, two for Labour, four people were still undecided and two people wouldn't say.

Ten people thought disability was quite important when it came to voting, four considered it very important, with two people assigning it no importance at all.



Mangotsfield Church, in Kingswood's "old town".

Among those who chose the "something else" option were Roy Hobbs who hoped for "improved access in all areas, and Ann Trotman who wanted "a change of attitude so I wouldn't have to prove myself all the time."

Solving the low income

two people opted for a special disability income, one person thought a mixture of all might work, with another opting for a mixture of higher benefits targeted more accurately.

Only 4,393 votes separated the Tories from Labour in the 1987 election, which makes

Name: Robert Hayward
Constituency: Kingswood, since 1983
Disability record: "Talked out" Civil Rights Bill (*DN*, March). Position on 1986 Disabled Persons' Act not known as Mr Hayward did not return *DN*'s calls. Has multiple sclerosis.

Edinburgh West

In Edinburgh West, the Liberal Democrats and the Labour party are hotly pursuing Conservative MP Lord James Alexander Douglas-Hamilton's slender 1,234 majority.

Seven out of the 14 disabled Scots in our survey rated their quality of life as about the same since 1979. Four thought things were worse, two better, and one person didn't know.

The Scots were the only one of the three marginals to come out on the side of the law to stop discrimination. Eight people chose it, narrowly beating the six people who opted for education and persuasion.

Yet anti-discrimination wasn't top of the list in answers to the "what's the best thing?" question. Five people wanted an education and training to help them get a job, four wanted anti-discrimination legislation, three bigger social security benefits, and two "something else" (independent living, "comfort and access", and integration).

Edward Gage, an artist and writer, chose education and training, "to enable people to help themselves, rather than being helped."

Mary Milne, who is unemployed, agreed: "If you are able to do a job, you should have the opportunity to get one".

Seven people thought targeting benefits more accurately would help solve the problem of many disabled people's low income, three chose a disability income, two wanted the level of benefits raised in general, and one person didn't know.

William Samuel, a civil servant, thought the problem was more complex: "You don't always solve problems by throwing money at them".

Name: Lord James Alexander Douglas-Hamilton
Constituency: Edinburgh West since 1974
Disability record: Wasn't present for debate on Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill. Couldn't recall how he voted on 1986 Disabled Persons' Act. "People with disabilities should be treated as members of the community and given proper respect."

Which party cares most about the NHS will be one of the fiercest fights in the election. Judging by the Edinburgh response, no one party has a clear lead yet. Five people didn't know whose hands the NHS was safe in, four people opted for Labour, three for the Conservatives, and two for the Liberal Democrats.

Lord Douglas-Hamilton will have to work for the votes of disabled people, judging by the scores on voting intentions. Only two people said they would vote Tory, the "don't know" tied with Labour with four votes each, three people went for the Liberal Democrats, with one person refusing to say.

Seven people said disability issues were quite important but not their main concern (more important was the NHS, education and employment), while six thought they were very important. One person didn't rate them at all.

Rosemary Gilchrist, an unemployed Conservative voter, stressed the importance of disabled people voting: "I don't believe you should complain if you haven't taken the trouble to vote".

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the key to the marginals

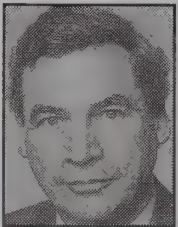
Vote '92



Bolton North East

"Welcome to Bolton," says the snappy tourist brochure, "a town famous for its warm Lancashire hospitality." With a majority sliced from 2,443 in 1983 to 813 in 1987, Lancashire hospitality might be running out altogether for Conservative MP Peter Thurnham in this election.

Despite cutting a swathe through the 1983 Tory majority, six of the ten disabled voters questioned in Bolton North East rated their quality of life



were almost as many answers as respondents. Three people voted for anti-discrimination legislation, two for bigger social security benefits, and three for an education and training to help them get a job.

Gordon Shields, who works part-time in a day centre, wanted something else: "The best thing they could do is keep inflation down. I'm on a fixed income and soaring inflation would cost me dear". Linda Barker, an unemployed housewife, wanted "a feeling of being the same as everyone else".

Five people thought targetting benefits better was the key

Working Allowances (DN, March) as they will "help a lot more people on a low standard of living. The Government seem to be getting it right."

It was a dead heat, with four votes each for Labour and Conservatives, on which party would provide the best health service. One person put their trust in the Liberal Democrats, with another refusing to say.

Although Brian Crockett supports the Tories on the health service, he is concerned at prescription charges rising "astronomically."

The battle for disabled voters' hearts and minds is far from over yet for Mr Thurn-

The questions we asked

How would you rate disabled people's quality of life today?

- worse since the Conservatives came to power?
- better?
- about the same?

Many disabled people believe they are discriminated against when it comes to getting things like jobs, etc. How could this be stopped?

- by a mixture of law and persuasion?
- by education or persuasion alone?
- you don't believe discrimination exists

A low standard of living is a problem for many disabled people. How could the Government help?

- by paying you a special "disability income" which covers everything you need, no questions asked?
- by targetting benefits more accurately so those who really need help get it?
- by raising the level of benefits generally?

Who do you think would provide the best health service?

As a disabled person, what is the best thing any Government could give you?

- a law against discrimination?
- bigger social security benefits?
- an education and training to get you a job?
- something else?

Who will you vote for?

When it comes to deciding who you are going to vote for, how important are disability issues?

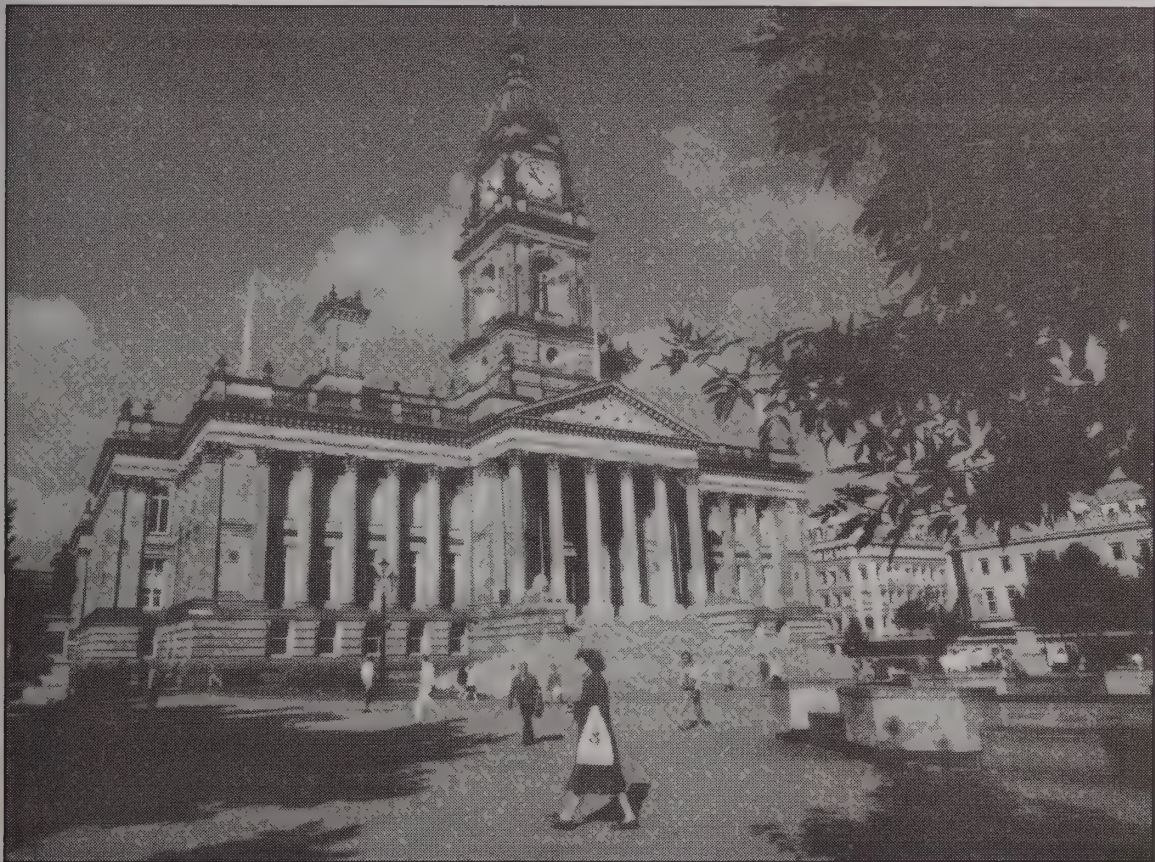
son. Kevin Prince, who is currently re-training for a job in computing, thinks a lot of Mr Thurnham. "He's quite interested in disability and gets himself involved. He's got a few things done here, like a ramp in the village library."

David Jones, who describes himself as "a life-long socialist", said: "He has tried hard,

but it's always with publicity in mind - he's got a marginal seat to defend. But having said that, whenever I've contacted him he's been very sympathetic.

"He's a nice guy," added Mr Jones, "it's a pity he's a Tory."

Thanks to all our readers who took part in the survey.



Bolton town hall: is Peter Thurnham heading for a career in local government? You decide.

as about the same as when the Conservatives came to power in 1979, two thought it was worse, and two better.

The absence of a law to protect disabled people against discrimination wasn't a common concern. Six people thought education and persuasion was the better way, three people chose a mixture of law and persuasion, and one person didn't know.

"People need educating to the fact that disability is no barrier," said Raymond Hodgkinson, who is unemployed.

David Jones, who works for social services in Bolton, thought a law wouldn't be enough without a corresponding change in attitudes. "People will still have in-built prejudices against disabled people."

Brian Crockett, the Conservative Disability Group North West regional officer, opted for a mixture of law and persuasion with some reservations: "It's a question of enforcing it".

When it came to the best thing any Government could give disabled people, there

to raising many disabled people's low income, with three opting for a special disability income, and two favouring raising the level of benefits generally.

Avian Wood, who works in a

Name: Peter Thurnham
Constituency: Bolton North East since 1983
Disability record: Founder chairman of Conservative Disability Group since 1988. Adopted disabled son, Stephen, 17, pupil at Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool. Founder of Bolton Handicapped Action Group. Wasn't present for talking out of Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill on 31 January. "I'm not convinced anti-discrimination legislation is the road to go down." Supported 1986 Disabled Persons' Act.

mill, wanted more targetting: "The most needy should get the most and richer people less".

Gordon Shields, who also went for targetting, praised the new Disability Living and

ham - four people opted for the Tories, and three for Labour. There were no pledges to vote Liberal Democrat, with two people refusing to say, and one not intending to vote.

The Conservatives can be sure of Avian Wood's vote: "Labour have little to offer, they are just full of hot air".

Linda Barker has always voted Conservative but doesn't think she will this time. Proving that disabled voters have as long a memory as politicians' excuses, Mrs Barker has been turned against the Tories by her local party. As a member of Bolton Access Group, she says she has been "practically begging" the Conservatives to send a representative, while Labour and the Liberal Democrats have been only too happy to come along.

Disability issues were "very important" for six people when it came to deciding who to vote for, with four saying they were quite important but not their main concern.

As in Kingswood, the sitting MP was well known among disabled voters, with a few aware that he has a disabled

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One of the things that people tend to forget about being disabled is the extra expense.

So to help out, extra cash will be available in April from a new social security benefit – Disability Living Allowance. It’s not affected by your savings or normally by any other money you have coming in.

DLA will completely replace Mobility Allowance and replace Attendance Allowance for people aged 65 or under. But older people can still claim Attendance Allowance.

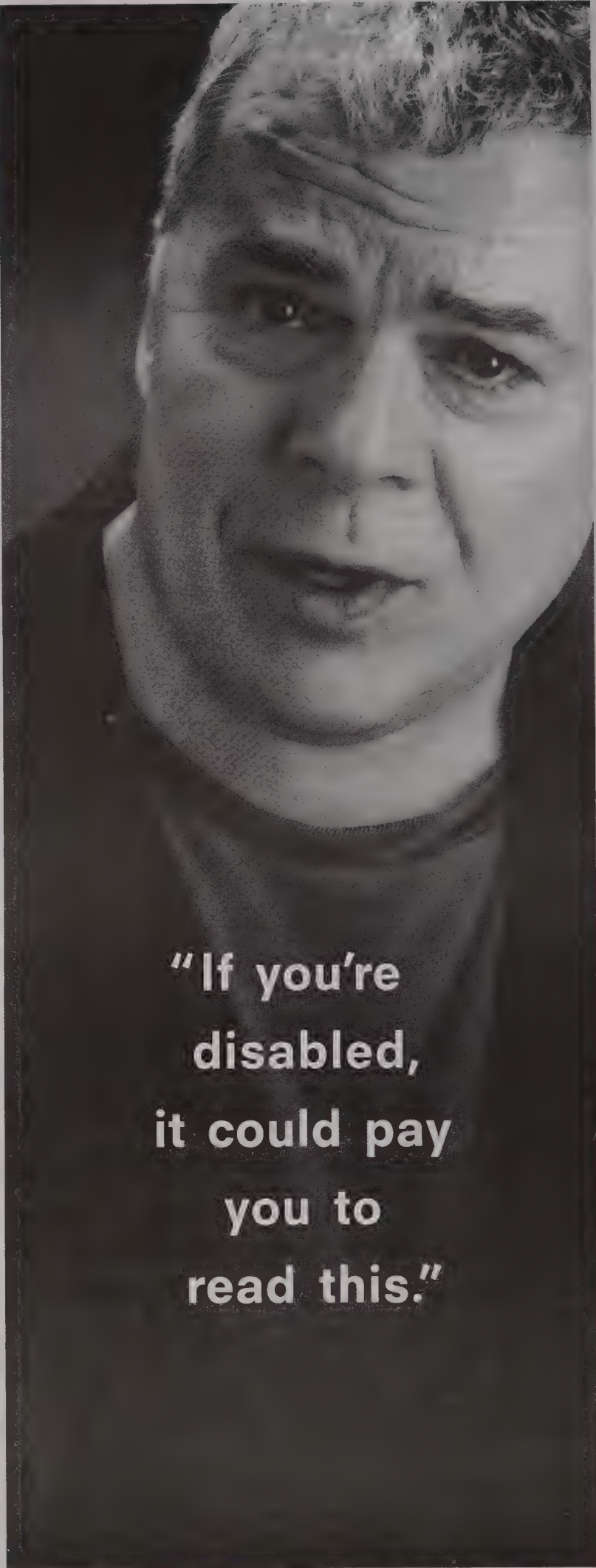
DLA means that more people than ever will be eligible. You could get it if you’ve never had benefit before or even if you’ve been turned down in the past.

You could now qualify for example, if you’d need help to prepare a cooked main meal. Or you’d need someone to help you to get out and about. Or if you need help with things like getting in and out of bed, washing, dressing or using the toilet.

Of course you could still qualify if you have difficulty walking, cannot walk at all or if you need rather more help with personal care.

If you’re already receiving Attendance Allowance, Mobility Allowance or both, don’t worry, there’s no need to do anything – you’ll continue to get your money.

But if you’re not receiving any help at the moment, why not send off the coupon below or telephone free on 0800 100 123 (24 hours) for a free guide.



“If you’re disabled, it could pay you to read this.”

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

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Address

Postcode

PLEASE TICK BOX

Disabled person

Voluntary organisation

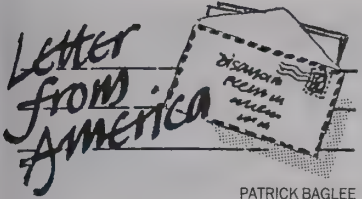
Professional interest/organisation

Carer for disabled person

Friend or relative

Send to: Disability Benefits, Freepost (BS4335), Bristol BS1 3YX.

DISABILITY Living ALLOWANCE



PATRICK BAGLEE

Now the law's on our side



Diane Coleman explains the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Dear Friends,
This is an historic time for you, my disabled brothers and sisters across the ocean, and for disabled people worldwide, who are watching to see whether our civil rights become law in England.

I'm told that the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill is patterned on the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and that even though it will not succeed in the present Parliament, the Labour party has promised to implement it if they win the General Election.

Although our Act had strong support among both Republicans and Democrats, it also had to overcome strong opposition, mostly from private businesses. As a result, it contains some significant compromises.

Nevertheless, these should not overshadow the vital progress that disabled people in America made when our civil rights were granted the force of law. Now we march into battle with a powerful weapon - the letter *and the spirit* of the law is on our side.

Civil rights laws like the ADA and your Bill acknowledge that disability is a common human experience.

The ADA found there are "some 43 million Americans [who] have one or more physical or mental disabilities."

The US Congress also stated as part of the law: "Historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination...continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem;...including outright intentional exclusion".

The Act's purpose was "to invoke the sweep of Congressional authority" to prohibit such discrimination.

At last, disabled activists had convinced enough legislators that education and good intentions were not enough.

When I was a young teenager, and went with my family to a restaurant or theatre that didn't have a ramp, I felt embarrassed while my father struggled to pull me up the steps. When I asked my parents why there was no ramp, they just answered that no one thought about access when the place was built. One of the most important principles of the ADA is the gradual elimination of that excuse. From now on, buildings must be constructed with full access.

The non-discrimination provisions of the ADA might be summarized as follows: both government and private

business are prohibited from excluding, discriminating, segregating, or otherwise denying things to someone based on their disability.

The counter-argument is that disability is unlike race, religion or gender because it involves expense. The ADA strikes a balance on the issue by introducing timetables for



Two adverts in the National Easter Seal Society's ADA awareness campaign

implementation and cost-related exemptions.

* All *new* buildings and almost all *new* transport must be fully accessible. This is estimated to add no more than 1 per cent to the cost, a reasonable price for society to pay for access.

* When buildings and transport are substantially renovated, the changed parts have to be fully accessible.

* Existing facilities have to be made accessible unless it would cost too much, "all things considered".

* Even if something is inaccessible, its benefits have to be made available in some other way, unless that would be too expensive, "all things considered".

"All things considered" must take into account such things as the cost of the accommodation and the size and wealth of the business.

How are the provisions being implemented?

Since August 1990, American cities may only purchase public buses which are equipped with lifts. (ADAPT fought for this because transport is the key to the effectiveness of the other provisions of the Act.)

Eight months ago, the city in which I work, Nashville, started running thirteen lift-equipped buses on major city centre routes. The buses work very well, and more and more people get around who used to be stuck at home.

Once all the old buses have worn out (a bus lasts about 12 years), disabled people will be able to ride any public bus.

From 26 January, Nashville could only limit its existing public van service for disabled

people if it could prove the costs are an "undue hardship", but recent surveys show that average cities spend 3-12 per cent of their overall transit budgets on these van services.

Regarding private transport, intercity buses (Greyhound) successfully lobbied for a seven year extension on their obligation to start buying accessible buses. In the meantime, Greyhound must assist disabled people to board the inaccessible bus and transport their wheelchairs.

"More of us are asserting these (new) rights ... change is beginning to happen"

Trains have more time to provide full access, but by July 1995 new coaches must be accessible, with one per train.

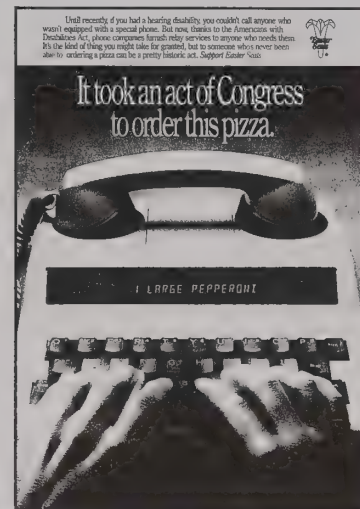
City commuter trains are relatively new, and many have been built accessible (eg San Francisco, Washington, DC and Atlanta). Existing systems must change gradually.

(Airlines are governed by the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 rather than the ADA.)

Also on 26 January the "public accommodations" provisions of the ADA went into effect for businesses with an annual income over \$1m and more than 25 employees. Smaller businesses have more

time to comply. Most states already require access in new buildings and renovations. Now existing facilities must be made accessible if the changes "are readily achievable without much difficulty or expense," all things considered.

In honour of the 26 January, disabled activists around the US demonstrated at facilities



which have not made "readily achievable" changes. For example, Tennessee ADAPT demonstrated at a restaurant with a single-step entrance.

While some businesses have complied, many have not. And the federal government has allocated all too few dollars to enforce this new law. There are no US Department of Justice regional offices designated for enforcement; not even any complaint forms.

No financial damages can be

won in a private lawsuit, except for back pay in an employment discrimination case, although attorneys' fees can be recovered. So the burden of enforcement is on us disabled people and our supporters, and we must do it just for the principle.

Limited government funding was allocated for ADA awareness and education efforts, and too much of that has gone to businesses that opposed the law at first.

But we're doing everything we can to educate ourselves about our new rights, and more of us are asserting these rights when we encounter discrimination. Change is beginning to happen.

Next we look forward to 26 July, the effective date of the ADA's employment provisions.

And to 1993, when people with hearing and speech impairments nationwide can use telephone services which relay communication between voice telephones and TDDs.

A law can never be the whole answer to the problem of prejudice, but the law is a necessary part of the solution.

We in America support your struggle for freedom and equality under the law.

Yours for a more just society,

Diane Coleman

Today's "biggest" and "best" small car offers you an extra feature ...

... it gives you your independence.

Now you can really enjoy independence in the most impressive "small" car of the 90's.

The sylish Clio has rapidly become a favourite for disabled people because it gives you big car comfort. In fact, its well appointed interior space is "biggest in its class" and it combines this with exhilarating performance.

The award winning Clio is big on choice too.

For example, power steering is an option on the RL 1.9 litre diesel and both the RT 1.4 and 1.8 litre petrol versions.

A four speed automatic gear box is also optional on the RT 1.4 litre.

The five door Clio can also be fitted with a Kempf rear sliding door conversion and electric hoist to make stowing a wheelchair behind your seat a simple, push button

operation. Coupled with its handling, spaciousness and quietness the Clio gives the motorist a real sense of freedom.

In fact, most models in the Renault range can be adapted to make the disabled motorist's life easier and more enjoyable with modifications by specialists including hand controls, swivel seats and flip-over accelerator.

Renault is an approved manufacturer on the Motability Car Purchase Scheme so if you receive a mobility allowance you're eligible to choose from most of the Renault range and purchase at the special Motability rate.

Ask your local Renault Dealer for details of the Renault Disabled Motorists Programme, special finance terms and any required modifications, or return the coupon below.

Please send me details of the Renault Disabled Motorists Programme and special financial terms



Send to: Renault UK Ltd., Special Sales, Western Avenue, London.W3 0RZ. Tel: 081-992 3481

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

More people power

I was glad to read about the petition that saved Downside Centre in Bracknell (*DN*, March).

We managed to save our work centre by going on a march, getting 5,000 signatures on a petition and support from local papers. We wrote 50 letters to MPs, councillors, the Queen and the Prime Minister.

We had two local councillors who fought for us and got the council's Labour leader to come and meet us. Then, in October, he announced that we were to be saved and three other day centres too.

It really was a lot of hard work: there were four of us.

I am very sorry for all the centres that do close, but you really have to be determined to win and have the support of the public and press.

Afterwards, we wrote to everyone who had replied to say thank you.

We have lots of work now, more than we ever had, and many people know who we are and what we are about, including social services, who were under a lot of wrong impressions about us.
Margaret Krowicki
Hounslow, Middx

Radar/DLF merger

It was edifying for members of the Motor Neurone Disease Association to read (*DN*, February) that their director had been invited to consider a post that does not exist, by a committee apparently without

the power to make the offer, to head up an organisation not yet created, out of two bodies that have not yet agreed to merge!

It would be comic if it did not contain the seeds of tragedy, and it is a shame that you trivialise an issue that far transcends personalities.

RADAR, with its unique approach to public policy, and the Disabled Living Foundation, with its track record on information and other services, are each self-evidently weaker and poorer without the other.

The present confusion simply underlines the importance of ensuring proper consultation. This time, it must take place within and between the organisations, with enough care to identify and deal with differences of goals, values or culture.

The prize is an engine capable of advancing the situation of people with disabilities. If it is not grasped this time, that engine will be slowed or even reversed.
Peter Cardy
Motor Neurone Disease Assoc
Northampton

Indignity of form filling

The other week I received a 40-page form for the new Disability Living Allowance, which a member of our staff filled in.

I do think some of the stuff they asked in it was a bit personal. Surely the basic needs would tell them what we

were capable of, but very personal things ought not to be asked because it made me feel quite embarrassed. I am sure it would make other women feel the same. That form could be passed on to many people and you don't know who is going to be reading it.

I do think the form could be made shorter because it took me two hours to fill in, and I speak slowly so you can imagine how tired my helper felt at the end of it. I was knackered just sitting there telling her what to write.

I am a disabled lady and proud of my physical achievements.

I feel that disabled people have to be so negative about their disability in order to claim benefits to which they are entitled. Surely this could be done in a way which is not so degrading, and leaving people feeling inadequate?

I wonder if any other readers feel the same way.
S Summers
Kidderminster, Worcs.

We've had several letters about this, so it seems they do! Editor.

sic

What's in a name?

In February, *DN* asked the Department of Health for its report on Beverley Lewis, the 23-year-old deaf-blind woman who died in squalor weighing only 3st 13lbs (*DN*, December 1989).

The report turned up the next day addressed to "Beverley Lewis, Disability Now, ...". A case of gone but still forgotten.

Stick 'em up

In a survey of its 60 branches in the North West, the Cheshire Building Society found that 37 per cent are wheelchair-friendly.

The rest offer a "pavement transaction service". In other words, you stay outside, tell the staff what you want, and they bring it to you.

So the next time you see someone in a wheelchair departing rapidly from a bank wearing a stripy jersey, a stocking over their head, and a bag with SWAG written on it, remember to tell the police it was just another successful pavement transaction.

Be her valentine

Ever wondered who joins a dating agency? Look no further than an article in the St Valentine's Day *Independent* to find out.

Karen Mooney, of the Sara Eden agency, gushes: "It's not a load of one-armed inadequates. It's people like you and me".

So, if you know someone that insensitive and offensive, you can now tell them where to go, can't you?

What you think about charity advertising and media images of disability



If you're persistently ill, will your healthcare company be persistently caring?

In some cases they tend to develop sudden doubts. However, Norwich's Union Healthcare always there with a caring attitude. Because unlike many other healthcare providers, we don't place financial limits on the amount of time you receive. Treatment is given to you one of our 150 hand-picked senior hospitals with the 24-hour service to us. There's also a full medical service should you require it. And of course, there are no limits on the number of claims that can be made. After months of problems can be tackled promptly and as a result that is convenient to both you and your company, so there's a real chance of a diagnosis in the future. So it makes good sense to have the best of your staff covered too. We offer an extensive range of policies that will suit all sorts of companies. From the very top to the very bottom, wherever the size of your company. And you'll find us to be a caring not just of patients with our policies. Call the manager on my Martin English on telephone 0800 134 134. To know more, please contact our Norwich Union Healthcare team. Please contact us on 0800 134 134. Norwich Union Healthcare. WE TAKE THE WAIT OFF YOUR MIND.

I was pleased to see you feature various charity advertisements in the January issue and ask for comments.

Regretfully, as charities become more aware of the unacceptability of using negative images of disabled people, it seems commercial advertisers are viewing the old "give us pity/it could be you next" angle as a possible winner. And if the agency can include a joke against cripples so much the better.

I enclose the centre spread advertisement from *Mind Your Own Business* magazine, December/January issue, (*above*) to prove my point.

By the way, I wonder how fairly Norwich Union Healthcare would treat a disabled person applying for insurance cover? Standard premium? Full cover?
Roger Symes
London W8

As a disabled person's employment officer for a large local authority, part of my job is to run disability equality courses which include considering the effect of charity advertisements and other media images.

Over the last year more than 200 people have attended and with only one or two exceptions, none of them ever thought to question the acceptability of the images.

May I highlight two areas of concern. First, as an officer working for equality of opportunity, I regularly encounter resistance and negativity based not on outright hostility but more often caused by assumptions of helplessness and dependency which the adverts perpetuate. A person seen as helpless is about as far from equal rights as it is possible to be.

Second, as a disabled person, I am insulted by many of the posters. Whilst being genuinely grateful for some of the support given by the MS Society which is paid for by the fundraising campaigns I find so offensive, I can do without being shown in the hideous way in which the MS

Society specialises.

One recent poster has the person with MS down on his knees. Disabled people may fall sometimes or part of their body may not function "normally", but I don't know any who are on their knees.
Paul Battabee
Liverpool

Charity advertising is the single most dominant area of negative disability representation and The Spastics Society is somewhat misguided if it thinks we will buy the idea that charities are somehow in the vanguard of changing representations of disabled people.

The charity posters are not analysed and the two articles beneath are prime examples of non-disabled people colonising the arguments of the disability movement.

Take, for example, the one by Maureen Gilbert of the National Rehabilitation Board (NRB) in Dublin. I was a keynote speaker at the Challenging Images seminar. While there is no doubt it was a move forward for disabled people in Eire, once again we saw the old scenario of disabled people telling their life-stories and providing the raw materials for the professionals, who, in the main, took over to assess us and our (in this case representational) needs.

Needless to say, the irony of a non-disabled person like Maureen chairing the Getting It Right panel, which included no disabled people, was lost on the organisers.

The will to change may be there. But organisations from the NRB to The Spastics Society and beyond are claiming medals from the battles they have lost and should acknowledge that the disability movement is winning the argument on disability representation. The charities should be addressing how impairment-specific charities are going to stop showing disability as impairment.
David Hevey
London SE1

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DN4/92

Beware! Disabled people at work

The territory which lies between working and receiving benefits can be a murky one. *DN's* benefits expert Margaret Weeks discusses some of the hidden dangers awaiting unsuspecting travellers



The problem

If you are on Income Support (IS) and are thinking of going to work and claiming Disability Working Allowance (DWA), please note that if your attempt at work fails you will not be able to receive the disability premium for a further six months.

For those of us who do not qualify for extra allowances, this will mean living on a very low income, around £42 per week. This will dissuade many people from trying to work in the first place.

The Disablement Income Group, who gave me this information, suggested I write to my MP. (It was nice to get advice from somewhere - the disability benefits enquiry line and the DWA enquiry line seem to be permanently engaged.)

In the letter, I also mentioned the silly rule about "therapeutic earnings" as it applies to people on IS. This allows us to earn £15 per week but forbids us to work any regular hours, even one or two per week. If we work the same hours each week we are considered fit for full time

work and made to "sign on".

The working hours, however few, have to be completely open (presumably because we are not supposed to know how well we are likely to feel at any given time). Hardly anyone could find work under this arrangement. It would be nice to be allowed to earn a bit more too, as those on Invalidity Benefit (IVB) are able to earn £39 in therapeutic earnings.

If anyone who stands to lose by either of these rules writes to their MP, we might be able to improve things.

V Kavanagh
Richmond, North Yorkshire

Margaret's answer

The disability premium paid with IS is granted on the grounds that you receive contributory IVB, non-contributory Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Attendance Allowance or Mobility Allowance (now known as Disability Living Allowance). These are all long term benefits.

Because you are not in receipt of any of these benefits

I assume your doctor is signing you off sick. After sending the sick notes in for six months you would be eligible for the disability premium.

To claim DWA, you must be in paid work of at least 16 hours a week, have been receiving a qualifying benefit before starting work, have a physical or mental disability which puts you at a disadvantage in getting a job and satisfy the means test. As you can see, it's complicated.

If you came off IS to take up employment (assuming you qualified under the above rules), and if your attempt to work failed, you would receive DWA until the claim had expired (it is awarded for six months). This amount would be topped up with IS and would include the disability premium.

When no longer entitled to DWA, you would, as you have pointed out, have to requalify for six months for the disability premium.

Regarding your point about therapeutic earnings, earnings for IS purposes are not necessarily therapeutic, but known as a "disregard". Anyone can have part-time

earnings whilst claiming IS and these are deducted from the needs calculation with a £5 or £15 disregard.

People signing on have a £5 disregard and people claiming IS long term (over two years), or sending in sick notes, are allowed an earnings disregard of £15. (There are a number of other complicated rules for earnings disregard which I don't have the space to cover here.)

If you do work regularly, you risk, as a "disabled person", being considered fit for certain work, and therefore being asked to sign on. If your doctor and the Department of Social Security considered the work therapeutic, there should be no danger of this happening.

People who are in receipt of IVB or SDA are still only allowed a disregard of £15 if they are topping up their benefit with IS.

Rule change

From 7 April the definition of full time work for IS and Family Credit (FC) purposes will change from 24 hours to

16 hours.

For people who are already working 16-24 hours a week, and claiming IS, there will be transitional protection.

The change will affect those disabled people who wish to work: once they lose their transitional protection, working over 16 hours will only entitle them to the DWA, which, at the present figures, only benefits single people without housing costs.

DWA does not bring entitlement to mortgage interest payments, free school meals or free prescriptions and other NHS costs.

FC, however, brings entitlements to free prescriptions, dental treatment, fares to hospital and vouchers for glasses.

To sum up then, people currently working 16-24 hours a week, and claiming IS, need to be carefully advised of the transitional protection rules and future options.

Margaret Weeks can only tackle wider benefits issues. For routine benefits advice, contact your local Citizens' Advice Bureau.

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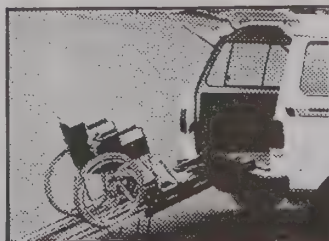
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Tim Russell reports

The 1992 *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition, at London's Earls Court, has 600 stands and five show houses to browse around, as well as a series of feature shows on cooking, holidays and the environment.

The "biggest show in town" claims to offer something for everyone.

What, we wondered, is there for people with disabilities? *DN* asked wheelchair user Merle Davies to find out.

Merle had no problems parking her car - she was allowed to park right next to the exhibition hall - or finding an accessible entrance to the building. But she was less impressed with facilities inside.

The first disabled toilet she used did not have enough room for a wheelchair user to turn round in, while a second had no hand grips.

Frequent humps in the floor made life difficult for wheelchair users and the service lifts we used seemed old and dirty.

Keep Able is the only specialist disability company exhibiting at the show. Most popular was the Beautyrest

Less than ideal for disabled customers

Adjustable Bed with massage units. Designed to ease arthritic, rheumatic and muscular problems, it is operated by a hand-held control unit and is adjustable to hundreds of positions.

"This bed would be perfect for me and many other disabled people," said Merle. "I find it difficult to read in bed and could do with something like this to prop me up. The massage units are very relaxing and would be ideal for people who feel stiff in the mornings." £1,850. (Tel: 071-742 2181)

The Gentle Lift Recliner chair, £750, was also from Keep Able.

"Very good for anyone who struggles to get in or out of their chair," said Merle. "I'm also impressed with the quality of the upholstery. Many chairs for disabled people look functional and unappealing, but this design is pleasant."

Merle was disappointed that many stands in the hall were raised more than three inches off the ground, so she couldn't get a close look at the exhibits.

By contrast, Christies' Fitted Bedrooms had both

level access and helpful staff, as well as some of the most useful exhibits in the whole show.

Visitors could try out their Postureeze bed, designed to adjust to the contours of the body and costing about £1,600.

This newly launched, motorised bed is operated by a hand-held control unit which lifts and tilts the frame and slats to mould exactly to the body's weight and shape. A manually operated version is available for £800. (Tel: 0275 374430)

Merle was also impressed with Christies' unique "self-closing" drawers, which need only the slightest touch to shut, and the sliding mirror wardrobe doors. "They can be opened from either side and glide open very easily. If you can't reach the shelves or hanging rails they can be lowered by a pulley system."

Christies' bedrooms are custom built and the firm provides a free designing service. Average cost of a new bedroom is about £2,300.

Dolphin fitted bathrooms also caught Merle's eye. "The



Merle appreciated the easy-opening drawers and wheelchair-hole space in Christies' Carissima dressing-table.

special levataps they use are very easy to operate and are very stylish." (Tel: 0905 748500)

Merle's favourite time-saving gadgets included a hand-operated food processor on the Culinaire UK stand, being sold at the bargain price of £10 (tel: 06905 304), and the Magic clothes presses by Singer, £179 to £249. (Tel: 071-373 9014).

"Both are very simple to use and make difficult tasks for disabled people very easy," she commented.

But she was disappointed with the kitchens in the show because none of them were adapted to the needs of disabled people.

"On the whole, the displays in the exhibition were very standardised. Many firms just cater for the norm and seem unaware of disabled people's needs.

"The staff, though, were generally friendly and unpatronising, and the service on some stands was quite excellent.



Comfort in the Gentle Lift Recliner chair.

"I just hope that next year the exhibition will provide a more interesting selection of products and start thinking more about the needs of disabled people. Six million disabled people and six million carers is a big market."

The exhibition runs until 10th April. Admission: £6 for adults, £3 for children.

Designed to Go!

In response to the demands for a 'go anywhere' buggy to suit children throughout their teenage years, Ortho-Kinetics have developed the Reha Buggy.



Designed to provide an attractive all purpose chair in two sizes, the Reha offers effective support using thickly padded cushions, firm seat and back and a 45° lap belt. The height adjustable footrest can be fully elevated and a simple turn of the knob allows the angle of the entire seating system to change for easy orientation-in-space positioning.

The Reha also has trunk supports, swingaway abductor and chest harness available and comes complete with swivel castors and 8" rear wheels and large pneumatic tyres to provide a smooth ride indoors and out.

For further information contact:
Ortho-Kinetics (U.K.) Ltd.,
Unit 4, Planetary Road,
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton
WV13 3XA. Tel: 0902 866166



Slide-fold door system for Christies' fitted bedrooms is easy to use.

Fancy salmon fishing in Scotland?



Fun and sun in Scotland, fishing from an extended platform in a reservoir. Further information from Leonard Warren, Handicapped Piscatorial Association, tel: (0424) 427931.

There's the chance of a lifetime waiting for two disabled fly-fishermen or women this summer.

Answer a few simple questions, complete the tie-breaker and, come July, you could be in the lowlands of Scotland fishing for salmon in the famous River Doon.

First prize will be three days fishing in the week beginning 6 July, plus accommodation for four nights at a wheelchair-accessible hotel, and transport to and from Prestwick airport/Ayr station and between the river and hotel. £100 will be paid towards travel

expenses to Scotland.

Second prize will be two day's fishing, three nights' accommodation, local travel as above, with £50 towards travel expenses.

The competition is sponsored by Clos-O-Mat Ltd, makers of the automatic flushing, washing and drying toilet that does away with the need for assistance.

Founder and chairman Robert Willan, a one-time wheelchair-user and enthusiastic fisherman, will be there with staff and an experienced ghillie to help make your trip a memorable one.

So just fill in the answers to the questions in the box, add your tie-breaker, cut out and send to:

Robert Willan,
DN Fishing Competition,
Clos-O-Mat Ltd,
2 Newton Street,
Stretford,
Manchester M32 8LG.

Closing date: 27 April

Winners will be notified by 11 May and announced in the June DN. Pictures of winners and their catches will be in DN August.

DN fishing competition

(Just answer the questions, complete the tie-breaker, fill in your name and address, check special requirements, and send today!)

1. Which famous Scottish poet was born near the River

Doon?

2. What is a grilse?

3. What is a Munro Killer?

4. What is a double four loop blood?

5. What are "Redds"?

Complete the following tie-breaker (maximum 12 words):

My idea of a perfect day's fishing is

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(use block capitals)

Address.....

I need personal care, so will bring a helper: Yes/No

I am a wheelchair user: Yes/No

I shall need to borrow fishing equipment: Yes/No

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BOOKS

Let's Talk About
Stammering
by Renée Byrne
(Association For Stammerers,
St. Margaret's House, 21 Old
Ford Road, London, E2 9PL,
£5.95 plus 75p p&sp.)

Renée Byrne's book is compulsive reading for stammerers. I have a stammer, but so sophisticated are my tactics to avoid it that few know it's there. Renée Byrne seemed to know - all my personal stammering secrets, nightmare scenarios and coping techniques were exposed. Described by the Association for Stammerers as "a definitive introduction to stammering", this attractive and compact second edition updates the 1983 original. It begins with success stories from one-time stammerers Margaret Drabble and Derek Nimmo. Renée Byrne approaches stammering from the viewpoint of old and young, of parents, teachers and speech therapists. She discusses its onset in very young children; the agonies of register-answering and reading aloud at school; the crisis of confidence experienced by adolescents; the career difficulties of adults; and the types of help available. Clearly-headed short paragraphs and question and answer sections make the book accessible to non-specialists. A stammer is a disability, made more mischievous by



These children are playing "Find the Leader", one of the 78 different musical activities for groups of children or adults with learning difficulties in *Pied Piper*, by John Bean and Amelia Oldfield. Aimed at carers and playgroup leaders. Cambridge University Press. £7.95.

being "invisible". It lurks, waiting to make a fool of its victim in public when they are exposed and vulnerable. It disables that most prized possession - the ability to communicate. The more important the occasion, the more unkind will be its strike. Renée Byrne's advice is fundamental to everyone with a disability. She asks stammerers to look people in the eye and stammer out loud, to talk about their stammer, to train themselves to mind less. Only then, she says, can the vicious circle of tension and blocking begin to lose its hold. By decreasing the need to hide, avoid and pretend, stammerers increase their

confidence in themselves, their speech and their relationships. She reminds people that there's more to them than their disability; for instance, listening is equally important in communication and friendship, and time thinking about others is time off worrying about the possibility of stammering. **Amanda Cornish**
Images of Disability on Television
by Guy Cumberbatch and Ralph Negrine (Routledge, £35)
In 1988-9 the late Broadcasting Research Unit carried out the most significant piece of

research to date on how disabled people are represented on British television. This book is the product of that piece of research, which was initiated by the disability organisation Fair Play, who, shamefully, receive no acknowledgement. The research was in two parts: a six week "content analysis", counting and classifying appearances of disabled characters on all four channels, plus a series of discussions with groups of disabled people, carers, family members and able-bodied people. One major value of the study is that it puts concrete figures to many of the assertions we have been making for years. Thus, the total number of characters with

a disability is one fifth of what could be expected if television mirrored reality. 19.4 per cent of disabled characters in dramatic fiction are portrayed as criminal, against 8.9 per cent of able-bodied. Disabled characters are also three times as likely to be dead by the end of the programme. There are also some surprises. Nearly a quarter of news broadcasts (24 per cent) showed disability - yet no current affairs programmes did so. In non-fiction, crime shows provided the highest percentage. But the type of programme most likely to include characters with disabilities was feature films (a grand total of 41 per cent). There are limitations to this methodology. The "counting" approach of content analysis is better suited to describing what happens than to explaining its significance. The study also ignores the considerable amount of work on representation that has been done by disabled writers such as David Hevey, Steve Dwoskin and myself. Thus, while noting that "it is difficult to avoid the impression that there is usually an ulterior motive for the inclusion of disabled characters in films and dramas", the book fails to reach the very basic point that disability is extremely frequently used as a metaphor - the "twisted mind in a twisted body" syndrome. Overall, the book provides major evidence of the failure of British television to represent disabled people adequately. How long it will take the industry to remedy that deficiency is anybody's guess. **Allan T Sutherland**

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DANCE

Common Ground

The remarkable sign-dancing of the Common Ground Dance Theatre is now on tour in a nicely balanced programme of two contrasting works: *Lunera*, and *An Angel*, or *The Old Dream of Flying*.

Lunera is a striking and original contribution to the sign dance theatre repertoire.

A richly textured piece, it incorporates a variety of dance disciplines, from free flowing modern dance forms to statuesque oriental movements.

Lunera tells of two women who meet on a street under a full moon. The movement sequences, the spoken and sung parts, and the extensive use of sign language, express the range of emotions the women experience in the subtly changing lunar light.

In the first half, there are no props to distract us from the physical and emotional intensity of the performances. Only Christoffer De Graal's original score with its staccato broken rhythms, electronic clicks and pulses, and slow melodic string passages, accompanies the dancers.

In the second half, which



The dance goes on: Iseult de Graal and Denise Armstrong.

seems to involve memory and regression into childhood, much use is made of balloons and coloured plastic tubing.

The various parts of *Lunera*, taken separately, may not be wholly accessible to a mixed audience of hearing and deaf people.

But as a whole, the work has an emotional and artistic

coherence that speaks to everyone. The silent concentration of the audience at the Theatr Gwynedd Bangor, where I saw the show, indicated there was no lack of communication between performers and audience.

Choreographer Iseult De Graal, a compact and dynamic dancer, performed the spoken

and sung sequences while Denise Armstrong, an elegant, deaf dancer, communicated in sign language. Both danced and mimed with fine control and sensitivity.

An Angel is based on a short story by Nobel prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It tells of an angel who falls from the sky over a South American village. The villagers do not know what it is or how it can help them. Gradually, everyone except a child loses interest and the angel flies away.

This makes for a hypnotic piece of dance theatre. The underlying symbols of the angel (representing the spiritual) and the stones (the earth) are presented in original and highly theatrical terms.

A central gauze drape representing an angel sets the mood of the piece. The slow, stylized movement sequences are accompanied by an insistent, almost frenzied percussion rhythm.

Much use is made of stones and pebbles both as symbolic pagan offerings and for beating out rhythms, leading to a dramatic conclusion.

Choreography is by Brazilian Ismael Ivo, direction by Lothar Baumgart, with music by Christoffer De Graal. The dancers were Denise Armstrong, Isalt De Graal and Rebecca Lublinski.

Bob Roberts

In Slough, London and Reading till 16 April. For dates, tel:081-575 1078 (voice and minicom).

FILM

Hook

We all know the childhood evergreen, *Peter Pan*. Steven Spielberg, the arch man-child of cinema, has taken that myth, framed it in a modern context, and tried unsuccessfully to switch the focus from the less interesting good guy (Pan) to the more interesting bad guy (Hook) so as to fashion a swashbuckling fantasy world where evil must be conquered, innocence regained and "the family" (that pillar of "normal" conservative society) re-united.

Peter Banning (Robin Williams) is a highly successful, 40-year old lawyer with a perfect family. One problem - he has lost touch with the child within (in Spielberg-speak he has lost touch with the power of imagination) and this is ruining his home life.

Come Christmas time, the Bannings head off for London and the mother country. Britain is apparently the fashionable place for Americans to locate ye olde worlde (last year we had

Costner's *Robin Hood*). Not very imaginative, really.

Banning is really Peter Pan, converted to the everyday world by a kiss. (There's a lot of kissing and symbolic imagery in this tale. It left me wondering if underneath all the smiling innocence it really ought to be viewed as a subconscious sex-fantasy.)

Hook (Dustin Hoffman), wanting revenge, steals Peter's children and good is forced to engage in battle with evil.

The trouble is that evil, or the character of Hook, is reduced to just that - a hook. Whenever danger threatens, the symbol of this ominous, artificial "substitute" appears. When the afeared Hook makes his entrance he is introduced as "the steel-handed stingray" and it is the glinting, pointed prosthesis we see first.

Just in case this disconcerting connection between evil and disability is overlooked, Hook is given a black mane, and a classic bad guy-style moustache a la Basil Rathbone.

Disability is portrayed as a model combining tragedy and horror. Again, not very imaginative.

We know that myths explain the world around us in simple, almost caricatured terms - think of Red Riding Hood and the big bad wolf.

But just because the myth is presented as wholesome, feel-good entertainment, as in *Hook*, doesn't mean it can't be challenged from a disability perspective.

Look out for

Hands On, a tactile exhibition of art by disabled people. Till 7 April. Droitwich Heritage Centre, tel: (0905) 774312.

Workhouse Cabaret for older people by London Disability Arts Forum. 14 April. Chiswick Town Hall, tel: 081-862 6518.

Signed performance of Shakespeare's *The Roaring*

The one-time wonder-kid Spielberg extols the virtue of imagination. Is it too much to ask that he shows a bit more of it himself?

Andy Kimpton-Nye

Girl's Hamlet. 9 April. Lilian Bayliss Theatre, London, tel: 071-837 4104.

Audio-described performance of Sheridan's *The Rivals*. 1 and 18 April. West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, tel: (0532) 442141.

Hounslow, Richmond and Ealing Disability Arts Festival till 19 April, tel: 081-862 5804.

VIDEO

1. **TERMINATOR II** (Guild). Arnie's back as metallic muscle man in violent sci-fi thriller.

2. **THELMA AND LOUISE** (MGM). Female bonding in excellent and controversial road movie.

3. **NEW JACK CITY** (Warners). Drugs are big business in New York action romp.

4. **RAGE IN HARLEM** (Palace). Robin Gibens (Mike Tyson's ex) stars in comedy chase caper.

5. **LET HIM HAVE IT** (First Independent). The tale of Craig Bentley: scapegoated and hanged for Croydon warehouse murder. Andy Kimpton-Nye

Chart: *The Video Palace*

TV

40 Minutes: "Elvis in Jarrow" (BBC2, 3 March) left me speechless.



I was appalled that a group of entertainers with learning difficulties have become famous in the North East of England because their performances are so inadequate.

The audience's enjoyment had nothing to do with empathy. This was a modern freak show, where the laughter was at the expense of the performers.

Then there was the management's exploitation of the group. Jarrow Elvis (he dresses like Elvis and sings Presley songs), is mainly given beer money. The rest get tokens to buy soft drinks. All this, despite raking in huge profits for the venues where they appear.

Set against this, though, the Jarrow Elvis Roadshow get great personal satisfaction from their performances. A laughing stock they might be, but their performances are priceless to them. And, the programme pointed out, if they were paid properly they would lose their benefit entitlement, and the money might be frittered away anyway.

The fact that I could see both sides clearly is a tribute to the neutrality of this documentary. Documentaries are by nature neutral, so perhaps this was an inappropriate format for this subject. Viewers were given no direction as to how they should react, and I fear many will either have said: "So what's wrong with that?" or "Isn't it a tragedy that those pathetic people are being laughed at?"

Either way, the programme may have done more harm than good.

D'Art (C4, 11 Feb onwards) features a group of young deaf people learning different theatre skills over eight weeks, culminating in a self-organised show.

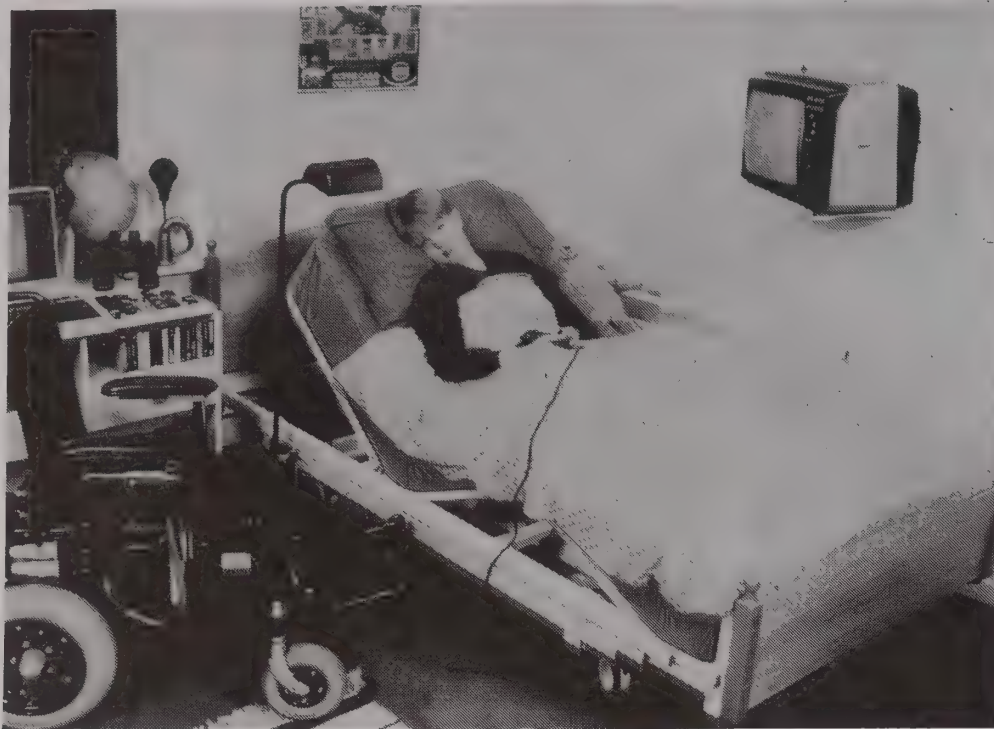
Workshops, be they in drama or any other discipline, do not transfer easily to television.

However, some of the performers shown leading the class deserve shows of their own. Providing such showcases might have been a better way of motivating deaf viewers than simply showing somebody else's workshop.

This year's **Holiday** (BBC1) programme is giving a monthly review of facilities for disabled travellers. Excellent idea, well presented, and supported by a booklet worth reading.

Chris Davies

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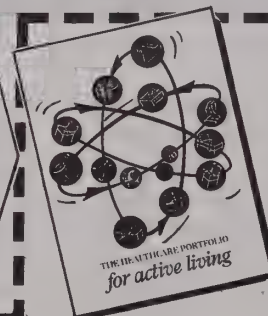
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DN4/92



PATRICK BAGLEE

Shooting people for a living

Careers (4): Photographer Graham Bool's shots for *DN* made the final of the 1992 British Sports Association for the Disabled's media awards. How did he get there and can you follow?

My career as a photographer began on All Fools Day 1987. Having resigned on Friday the 13th, the chairman's words still rang in my ears: "At your age you should be thinking of taking it easy, not taking up the entrepreneurial mantle".

One month later, with no jobs booked, I knew I had done the right thing - this was a challenge.

I arrived at photography by a round-about route. At 21, after various jobs, the time had come to re-assess my future. Had I not had a disability, my life and the choices I could have made would have been very different. Going to a segregated boarding school for physically disabled children gave me a very poor education, so a career in engineering, for example, just wasn't open to me. On the other hand, I could have been born rich or starving. I was neither, so I didn't feel the need to consider if I'd been dealt a poor hand.

Ever since I could remember, I had owned a camera of some sort, so photography seemed an obvious choice.

At Dixons, I learnt how to run a photographic retail outlet. Within a year I was assistant manager and then manager. All this for up to 60 hours and £23 a week.

Looking for my next step, I was "head hunted" by the manager of the AGFA-Gaevent showroom. The next six-and-a-half years were an education in dealing with people, problems, products and photography.

The day came when most of us received our redundancy papers. I booked a flight to New York, wrote to friends in the States and went on the trip of a lifetime. For six months, I travelled round North America with friends and strangers, trying to capture the expanse and beauty of it all on film.

Back home again, I started work with a public relations company, running a photographic facility and library. This gave me the opportunity to take press, studio and portrait pictures.

Meanwhile, I married and started a family. Ten years of commuting more than 20 hours a week was taking its toll on all of us. So, after five months planning and with £3,500 savings, I became a freelance photographer.

I didn't have any formal training as a photographer. It all happened for me through natural interest, past

employment, photographic clubs, exhibitions, professional associations and training on the job. An insatiable curiosity for the "nitty gritty" of photography also fuels my fire, and every "first", like fashion photography for *DN*, is further education.

I am motivated by the need to succeed and an attitude of "If I think I can, I can - somehow!" Why settle for less?

As an old polio, I know it makes sense not to tackle some jobs, so I avoid unnecessary disappointment. Where others carry their equipment easily and run up stairs, mine is on a trolley and I take the lift. Where the environment is unfriendly, clients are usually happy to help.

Parking can be a major problem for a less mobile photographer like me, particularly in London. Sometimes, with a lot of heavy equipment to carry, the journey from car to client is the obstacle between earning

photographer? If you believe we all have a "mind's eye", then yes. You might have to make modifications to the equipment, but then you can apply techniques and creativity as you like. There are a growing number of photographers with a disability, such as David Constantine, whose work is recognised for its quality and scope.

You can become a photographer the formal way, through study and exams, or gradually as I did. The formal way is more thorough and quicker in the long run.

Choose carefully which areas you want to work in - for example, press or studio, etc - and realise that sometimes you may have to settle for less to pay the bills and yourself.

When you come to getting a portfolio together, remember that you will never get a second chance to make a first impression, so make sure you show it to the right person. And always follow up an appointment with a courteous letter of thanks.

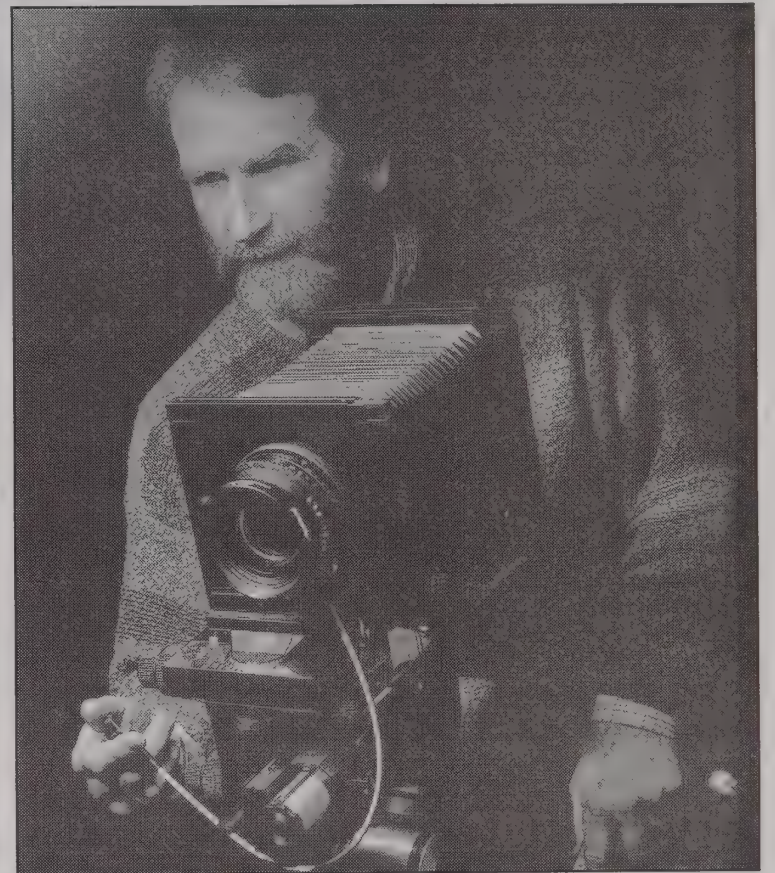
When the jobs come, be ready to work hard and give the client everything they're paying for, plus a bit more.

The exciting part is that every day is different. I once found myself balanced on a felt roof in a snowstorm photographing a nearby

building which was to be somehow bathed in sunshine. On other occasions, I have been rubbing shoulders with

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Graham Bool: "A sense of humour is useful".

PETER CHADWICK

Ministers of State or doing a shoot in Amsterdam's red light district. So, if you want it, and it makes sense, go for it!

Graham Bool Photography, tel:

photography. Tel: (0226) 730495 for a guide.

The Arts Council's Directory of Independent Photography lists courses around the country. £6.50. Tel: 091-567 3589.

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Graham Bool

JOB: Freelance photographer

QUALIFICATIONS: GCEs in English language and literature; 23 years in the photographic business; five years in general clerical and accounts work.

SKILLS: A thick skin and a sense of humour are useful. You should be able to express your ideas, listen very carefully, and make a good first impression. You have to be determined, but not aggressive, and patient.

or not. I once collected 22 tickets in six weeks. More disabled parking bays and a little flexibility from traffic wardens wouldn't go amiss.

It would be nice to be a specialist, but in this day and age it's advisable to be an all-rounder. I will do most things, except "social pictures" like weddings and family snaps.

How much you can earn varies widely, from £10,000 a year outside London, to £30-50,000 for successful London photographers.

Photographers are not immune to recession though. The last 18 months have been very difficult, but no reason to quit. It makes sense in these times to have another string to your bow, so I am also building a different, recession-proof business in marketing.

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TOPHAM



BARNARDOS

The *Out of Sight* book uses 60 rare photos and archive stills.

Above: Ruled by the clock? Institutional life in a boys-only home run by Dr Barnardo's in the 1900s.

Left: Raising the flag on their sandcastle: a party of disabled children on a day trip to Hayling Island in 1920. From 1900-1950 most physically disabled people in Britain were under 14.

Right: A lesson at Peterborough Special School in London, 1906. Lessons were usually simple, with expectations low.



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DN0492

Share Your Problems

with Ann Darnbrough

The fight for rights spreads around the world



Have you heard about the Harare Declaration? I hadn't till last week, but it gave me a great boost to hear how disabled people from nine Southern African countries had come together in Harare, Zimbabwe, to call for the urgent enactment of legislation to protect the rights of disabled people.

The movement is worldwide, with disabled people often calling for legislation to back up their demand for rights.

The Harare Declaration listed the human rights provisions that the proposed legislation must address, including the right to employment, independent living, affordable and accessible housing, marriage and loving relationships, children, a secure income, the necessary aids and equipment; as well as protecting the rights of disabled women.

The need for similar rights to be enshrined in British law was strongly brought out in a letter I had from a reader, Michael, who highlighted the insecurity of people wishing to live independently:

"I've been living in residential care for eight

long years and desperately want to move into my own accommodation. Because I'm severely disabled I would need to arrange a lot of personal assistance - but however much effort this involves, I am determined to live independently.

"The problem is, my local authority say it will be months before they can provide a flat for me and organise a care package. I could find privately rented accommodation - but where would I find the money to pay for personal care? Please advise me of the best way to organise and pay for this. I've heard of the Independent Living Fund, but don't know if they would help me."

Yes, Michael, the Independent Living Fund (ILF) exists to help people like you - but you must move fast because it is to be wound up in 1993.

Although arrangements will be made after that to help severely disabled people, it is not yet clear how these will work. In the meantime, there is anxiety that funds will run out in this last year and that applications will have to be curtailed - unless there is a

topping up by the Government. It is important that anyone considering seeking ILF help gets their claim in as soon as possible.

I am sorry to hear about the dithering of your local council. It is important that you put as much pressure on them as possible, and that you also contact your MP - they can sometimes work miracles.

You should also contact The Disablement Income Group (DIG) and tell them of your dilemma. They will be able to advise you and may be able to suggest suitable housing associations in your area.

I am always interested to hear from people who have overcome obstacles in their move to independent living. Your experiences can be very valuable to others who are nervously contemplating the move. And do write and tell me what you think about using legislation to further disabled people's rights.

I hope that in this column we can share experiences and ideas.

David (not his real name), is a blind social worker and a writer. He says:

"It has been a longstanding ambition. I have written articles for a medical journal, newspapers, local radio and TV - all of which followed the loss of sight.

"What I need is someone who wouldn't mind helping out. That is to proof read, not just to correct simple mistakes but to engage in creativeness; sort of understanding what I want to say and putting it into context.

"I have got plenty of notes both in longhand and typewritten ready to edit. I couldn't pay much, but I'm quite willing to cover small expenses."

Is there anyone out there with the spare time and creativity to help David fulfil his ambition? Please write to me and I will pass your name on.

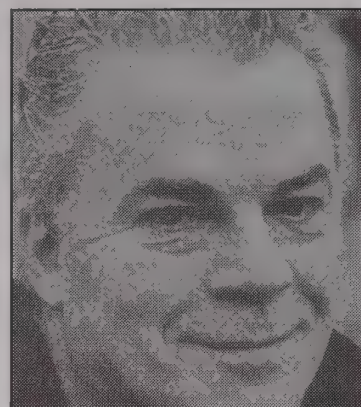
What's in a word? What do you think about the words "cripple", "patient", "victim", "chairbound" or "suffering from"? Do they infuriate you? Or don't you mind? Do you have any pet words you dislike? Please write to me, c/o DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ with your views.

Independent Living Fund, tel: (0602) 290423/290427.
Disablement Income Group, tel: 081-801 8013.

Cerebral Palsy Helpline

Responding to a survey of users, the Cerebral Palsy Helpline (which also helps people with other disabilities) has new opening hours:
Mon-Fri 11am-9pm
Sat and Sun: 2pm to 6pm
Tel: (0800) 626216

PROFILE



Ian Dury

The living room of Ian Dury's West London flat is packed with musical instruments and recording equipment.

"I've started writing songs for my next album," explained the 49-year-old songwriter, as I squeezed past an electric piano and a drum kit.

The walls of the flat are covered with posters and memorabilia from the late seventies when Ian Dury and the Blockheads had three top ten hits, including the number one single *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick*.

Dury was also famous for creating controversy. In 1981, his anthem for the International Year of the Disabled, *Spasticus Autisticus*, was banned by the BBC.

"It was meant to be provocative," explained Dury, who developed polio as a child. "It was a statement about the way disabled people are treated. Some people took it the wrong way, but I didn't write it for them. I wrote it for disabled people who would know how I felt."

Dury was born in Upminster, Essex, in 1942. He went to Chailey Heritage special school in Sussex.

"It was a very energetic, humorous but unsentimental place and I learnt a lot there."

At 17, the lifestyle of an artist attracted him. From the Royal College of Art, he went to teach at the Canterbury College of Art.

"Painting can be a very lonely business and I started singing as a hobby. I met a few

other music fans and we played in local pubs."

Ian's first band, Kilburn and the High Roads, broke up. His fortunes changed in 1977 when he met Chaz Jankel and formed the Blockheads.

Their first album, *New Boots and Panties* (1988), reached number five in the UK charts. Although the band's first single, *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll*, flopped, the next three were all top ten hits.

Today, separated from his wife and with a grown-up son and daughter, Ian is a presenter on *Metro*, London Weekend Television's late night arts programme.

His distinctive voice is heard on TV adverts. He is currently publicising the Government's new disability benefits on TV and in the press. While he's aware of criticism for making them, to Dury it is just another job.

"I sent the scripts to disabled friends who know more about these issues than I do, including some radicals, and they said there will always be somebody who moans."

He claims never to have faced discrimination during his pop and TV career and does not believe in a law against it.

"Most prejudice is a result of fear. We have to educate people to be more tolerant. I don't think passing any laws will make any difference."

He has, however, faced the odd problem on tour. "I once had to stand in a separate queue at Australian customs.

"They asked why I used a cane and when I told them, a doctor examined me, wrote polio on a slip of paper and stapled it to my passport."

Having acted in TV plays and films, he is now writing lyrics for the Royal Shakespeare Company's adaptation of a Jacobean play, *A Jovial Crew*. "I'm having to write the songs in 17th century English, which should be interesting!"

He would like to be out on the road again. "I love gigging but only when it's fresh and exciting. You see, my biggest ambition has always been to get through the day as interestingly as possible."

Tim Russell

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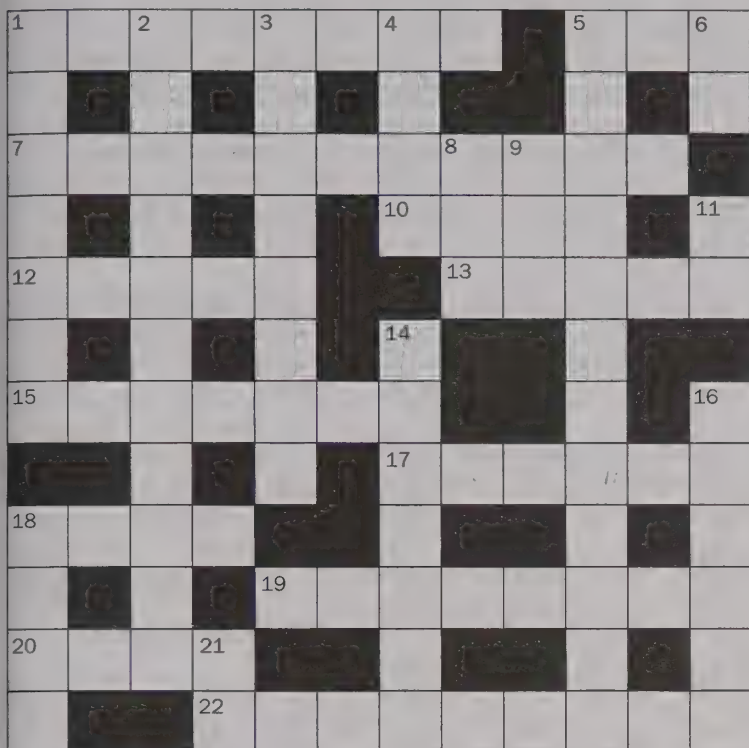
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Bellingdon Road, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 2NN

DN's crossword

Answers page 31

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Animal helper for blind people (5,3)
5. Porker (3)
7. Exactly right (4,7)
10. Woolly footwear (4)
12. Greek letter (5)
13. Blusher (5)
15. Sounds like making bread (7)
17. Girl's name (6)
18. Timetable (4)
19. Hearing disability which causes a ringing noise (8)
20. Egyptian river (4)
22. For experiments (4,5)

DOWN

1. Sparkle (7)
2. Cream linnet (anag)
3. Stress (8)
4. Rowing equipment (4)
5. Pay the bill (4,2,3,3)
6. Leave (2)
8. Tea — two (3)
9. Umberto —, Italian author (3)
11. Disability which makes people tired (1,1)
14. Opposed to (7)
16. Girls (6)
18. Circle (4)
21. Lovable alien (1,1)

March winner

Thanks again for all your entries — keep them coming in. The £10 prize goes to **Roger Symes** of London. As comedian Russ Abbot hurtles down, the crowd is shouting: "It'll be much easier when the stairlift is fixed".



BRITISH EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

Win a £10 prize

Create-a-caption

Entertainer Rolf Harris fills Lisa Dalton in about Putting you in the Picture, a new video about epilepsy for young people and their families*.

But what else could they be didgeri-dooing?

Answers please to DN, address page 2, by 9 April.

* *Putting you in the Picture*, produced by the National Society for Epilepsy (NSE), £14.99, from the NSE, Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 0RJ, tel: (02407) 3991.



... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ...

Answers page 31

1. Why was a 14-year old Irish girl temporarily prevented from coming to England?
2. Which Republican candidate came close to President Bush in the early US presidential primaries?
3. Which politician was accused of being disrespectful to the Queen during a visit to his country?
4. Which actor gave a lecture at the Oxford University union?
5. How old is actress Elizabeth

- Taylor?
6. Who won the South African grand prix?
7. Which former England goalkeeper became the manager of Plymouth Argyle football club?
8. Who was set free after 16 years' imprisonment after

- being cleared of a crime he didn't commit?
9. According to a MORI poll, what percentage of 7,000 teenagers have experienced a hangover?
10. Who looked out of a kangaroo's pouch in a TV commercial?

Detailed at Her Majesty's pleasure

Boring. That's what you'd think if you were offered a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI). You wouldn't expect to find high drama, violence, humour, pathos, the joys and sorrows of human relationships. But you'd be wrong.

When you are next chatting to someone from the Department of Education and Science get them to send you a copy of the 1991 HMI report *Youth Work with Young People with Disabilities*. It is a belter. Literally.

Listen to this inspector's report on a supposedly "integrated" youth club: "Young people with disabilities were present in considerable numbers, but neither integration nor youth work were observed. A fight was going on at the pool table with cues being used as weapons.

The young victim had learning difficulties and some mobility problem. In the same club some young people sat around unoccupied with catalogues on their laps, and other young people passing by would pat them on the head and continue on their way with no other attempt at communication. Others were called unflattering nicknames."

I can't help feeling that this is a mite underwritten. It leaves the reader unsatisfied. At the very least, we want to know what the unflattering nicknames were. Not, we hope, the unmentionable "S word"? (Only The Society can use that name.) But what does the government inspector expect? Flattering nicknames?

And there is ambiguity to clear up. Did the young victim have learning difficulties and mobility problems before he or

she was set upon with pool cues? Or were the learning difficulties and mobility problems the result of the battery? Or even, were they only present during the attack? Q: What is the nature of your learning difficulty? A: People keep hitting me with pool cues.

And then there are the catalogues. Are we talking last Christmas's Argos catalogue? Or the British Library's 360-volume General Catalogue of Printed Books? It does make a difference to the overall picture.

But mainly my verdict on the inspector's report is favourable. It won't win the Nobel Prize for Literature. But for an insight into an average day at an average institution for the benefit of disabled people — not bad.

Peter J Waszkevics

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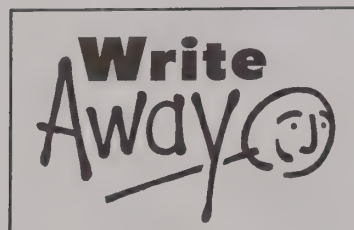
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The Maternity Alliance is conducting the first national survey of maternity care for parents with disabilities. If you or your partner have a physical disability and have had a child in the last five years, you could help by filling in a questionnaire. For more information contact Meg Goodman at the Maternity Alliance, 15 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JP, tel: 071-837 1265..

The Handynet Database aims to provide a complete listing of all European aids and



devices for visually impaired people. All database entries are free. If you are a UK manufacturer, or know someone who is, please contact Colin Peuleve, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA, tel: 071-388 1266 ext 2368.

The Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel would like to make contact with other access panels in the UK to exchange views and ideas. Contact Peter Neely, 55 Emrys Avenue, Ayrshire, Cumnock KA18 1EJ. When replying please type or print.

Voluntary Service Overseas needs medical professionals, including physiotherapists, speech and occupational therapists, to work in developing

countries. Postings are usually for two years, with pay at local rates. VSO pays for air fares, health insurance and National

HELP!

Insurance contributions. Contact VSO's enquiries desk, tel: 081-780 2266.

Hamilton House Day Centre in Brighton is looking for volunteers. If you would like to join the volunteer list tel: (0273) 778228.

Major buggies and wheelchairs of all types and condition and boots in good condition are needed for children with CP in Zambia. If you can help contact Peter Felloes at Freight International House, 314-316 Bath Road, Slough, Berks SL1 4DX, tel: (0753) 550066.

Are you skilled in fundraising, marketing, admin, finance or marine engineering? The Manchester Canal Boat Trust is looking for volunteers to help adapt a barge for disabled people. If you are interested, contact Mike Butfield, tel: (0831) 450469.

Do you have any experience of training funded through Training and Enterprise Councils (TECS)? If so, Susan Bennett wants to hear from you. She is researching TECs and people with disabilities. Contact her at Lancaster and Morecambe College, Morecambe Road, Lancaster LA1 2TY.

Shiela Woodland has walking difficulties following a fractured hip. She would like to hear from people with a similar disability. Write to her (enclosing an SAE) at 72 Greenway, London SW20 9BH.

Write Away, (logo left) the penfriend club for young people with special needs, is looking for new members. It costs only £1 to join. Contact Nicolle Levine, Write Away, PO Box 175, New Ash Green, Dartford, Kent DA3 8PQ, tel: 081-961 5876.

Welcome All Children is a project aiming to improve the leisure opportunities of disabled children living in rural areas of Humberside. If you feel you could contribute to a local survey, contact Ann Hindley, Researcher, 11 Com-



mondside, Crowle, South Humberside DN17 4EX.

The Disabled Photographers' Society (logo above) is building up a record of photographic clubs with facilities for disabled people. If you know of any, please contact the society at PO Box 130, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6XQ.

WHAT'S ON

Employment Opportunities for People with Learning Difficulties. 8 April at St Joseph's Pastoral Office in London. Contact the Conference Secretary, St Joseph's Pastoral Office, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4TY, tel: 081-202 3999.

Disability Management at Work, an introductory course. 9 and 10 April at City University in London. £295. Contact Margaret, The Rehabilitation Centre, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB, tel: 071-253 4399 ext 4625.

Benefits for Beginners, a course for home improvement agency staff. 14 April in Nottingham. £55 (agency staff), £70 (others). For details contact Mike Ellison, Care & Repair, 22a The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DT, tel: (0602) 799091.

Why Should We Care? Wandsworth Carers' Forum fifth annual conference. 15 April at the Tooting Leisure Centre, London. For more information contact John Bird, tel: 071-228 5576.

Hoists and Lifting Equipment, a demonstration day - 16 April in Manchester. Free. Contact Mrs B J Dickinson, DLS, 4 St Chads Street, Cheetham, Manchester M8 8QA, tel: 061-832 3678.

A Day of Sail, an opportunity for disabled people to try out sailing, 25 April at Surrey Docks Waters Sports Centre, Rope Street, London SE16. £5. Contact Tom Atkins, tel: 081-531 2282.

AIDS in the 1990s, a Global Analysis, a one hour lecture. 28 April at Guildhall, London. Free with ticket only. Details from the Conference Dept, The Royal Society of Health, RSH House, 38a St George's Drive, London SW1V 4BH, tel: 071-630 0121 ext 10.

Exhibition of Children's Equipment. 28 April in Nottingham. Free. For further information contact Ailene Hickman, Nottingham Resource Centre for the Disabled, tel: (0602) 420391.

Hospice Care for People with Motor Neurone Disease. 28 April at St Gemma's Hospice, Leeds. £23.50. Contact Help the Hospices, tel: 071-278 5668.

Access Abilities 1992, an employment and training fair for disabled people. 6 May at West Ham Town Hall, London. Contact Barbara Grim, Newham Training Network, tel: 071-511 1934.

Training Day on Prader-Willi Syndrome. 7 May at the Hereford Education Centre. £20 (professionals) £5 (parents). Contact Jackie Waters, Information Officer, PWSA (UK), 5 Wollaton Road, Chaddesden, Derby DE2 4HX, tel: (0332) 668790.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Telephone: 0926 624432.

INFO

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf has been relaunched as the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (see new logo below). As part of its new approach the charity will decentralise its organisation and put emphasis on providing services.

One Hundred Hours is a new charity set up to offer support and education to families with a newly diagnosed child who has brain damage. For more information contact Peter Limbrick,



secretary, One Hundred Hours, 25 Bridge Lane, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 9EU, tel: (0943) 601123.

Closing date for the British Gas Adapt Awards is 31 March. The first prize is £5,000. If you manage an arts venue which has been adapted for disabled people you can get an application form by telephoning 071-607 7190.

Help is at Hand, a video on coping with Arthritis from the Arthritis and Rheumatism

Derek Ashcroft, an executive council member of The Spastics Society, has been elected an honorary freeman of the city of London in response to services for disabled people.

Council, costs £4.99 (inc p&p) from ARC Communications, Brunel Drive, Northern Road Industrial Estate, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2DE.

The Way Around Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance - a Critical Guide costs £3.50 from Disability Alliance ERA, Universal House, 33-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA.

The BBC Holiday programme has produced a free guide for the disabled traveller. Send an SAE to Holiday, PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ.

Play, a free guide to playing in London for disabled children is available from Artsline, Play Guide Orders, 5 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TU, minicom and tel: 071-388 2227.

MOVES

Sir John Graham is the new president of Countrywide Workshops Charitable Trust. Raymond Lang is now the disability programme co-ordinator at ARHTAG. The Richmond Fellowship has appointed two new regional directors: Helen Morgan, the South of England and Wales, and Phil Russell, the North of England and Wales. The North Edinburgh Action Group has appointed John Rowan to head its new employment project for people with learning difficulties. Phillip Watson is the Carers National Association's new national development officer, Bill Love is development officer for Northern Ireland and Margaret Knight for Wales.

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3 Posts

Manchester City Council is committed to achieving radical organisational change in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of its services. This change includes a progressive move towards decentralised delivery of key services. As a critical factor to realising this aim, the Council has approved a Training and Development Strategy and a Corporate Training Plan. We are looking for three Senior Training Officers to join the Training and Development Team and contribute to the task of meeting the far reaching and exciting objectives of the Training Plan. This is a stimulating opportunity to work within an enthusiastic and professional team which has clear goals. Its mandate is to cover such fields as Management Development, Quality of Service, Training for Low Paid Workers and training to support and implement Equal Opportunities Policy and Practice.

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Application forms and further details from Personnel Department, Manchester City Council, 4th Floor, Cumberland House, Crown Square, Manchester, M60 3BB. Telephone or minicom 061 234 7520. Closing date 27th April 1992.

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FIND-A-FRIEND

There is a short waiting list for Find-A-Friend ads. Do not worry if your advert is not in immediately, it will probably appear next month.

LINCS MAN, 41, would like to find a lady to share accommodation with. I am slightly disabled with epilepsy, I have a sense of humour, hobbies are ten pin bowling, coin and antique collecting, wine making and eating out occasionally. Box No. 415.

BIRMINGHAM. Do you spend your time looking after others but spend your free time wishing someone would care for you? Then let's get together. I am gay, 35 and looking for a one to one relationship with a gentle able-bodied guy. I have my own car and flat and many interests. Box No. 416.

DISABLED MALE, 30, single. Right amputee and deaf (communicates with British Sign Language and a little lip reading), seeks single able-bodied/disabled female (20-33) for friendship. Interests include photography, travel, tv and visits to museums etc. South London and North Surrey area preferred. Please reply. Box No. 417.

I AM FEMALE, late 40s and was disabled by polio some 30 years ago. I am reasonably mobile using two calipers and enjoy an active lifestyle. Following the break-up of a long-standing relationship I would like to make new friends. Please reply. Box No. 418.

DANNY is an intelligent, happy, physically disabled 15 year old in a wheelchair who would like a companion (male or female) for the summer holidays, North London. His interests are sports, computers and trips. Box No. 419.

31 YEAR OLD MAN with slight disability, caring and honest. Works with children with cp, seeks simple and mature lady, age, race and disability no barrier. Box No. 420.

For Find A Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to Disability Now with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

DISABLED MUM caring for autistic adult daughter requires a male pen friend in late 50s or 60s to combat loneliness. Box No. 421.

MALE, 45, slightly disabled with cp but very independent. I have my own place and car. Hobbies are: travel, eating out, theatre and meeting people. I would like to meet a kind, loving female with a good sense of humour, able-bodied or disabled. Please send photo if possible. North London area. Box No. 422.

DISABLED (recent spinal injury) p/t teacher, p/t student aged 23 seeks female correspondents. Torbay/South Devon. Interests: literature, history, music and travel. Box No. 423.

24-YEAR-OLD MALE with various interests including Open University study, reading, history, music and fencing, seeks disabled/non-disabled female (24-26) to share interests with and possibly more!! Exeter, South Devon area preferred as I wish to meet you as soon as possible. Box No. 424.

PARTIALLY DISABLED MALE, mid 40s, would like to make contact with partially disabled or able-bodied female up to 50. I like TV, home-life, music, eating out and occasional visits to the pub etc. South Eastern/Central South England preferred. Please write. Box No. 425.

IDIOPATHIC CHOREA? If this is your diagnosis, you are female and preferably under 50 years, I would welcome postal friendship. Mrs Casey, 7 Peewit Road, Ipswich IP2 0TR.

I AM 5 YEARS OLD. I can rite well and love all sorts of games. I have a brothr uldr ajd 7. I have a dog, cat, parot and fish. I go to ordiny school in spite of not being able to walk talk or use my hands without an enabla. I need a frend like me. Plees rite to me. Box No. 426.

SPINAL DISEASE MALE 25-35, would like to write to and eventually possibly meet a similar guy. I am well adjusted and independent but lonely. Please write with details and photo. Driver please, Dorset. Box No. 427.

IS THERE A LADY in the London area willing to be a holiday helper for week-end breaks to a young at heart 52-year-old male with cp and many interests? A witty humour needed to match his. Must be non-smoker, used to meeting people, fit and open minded. Box No. 428.

LONELY 26-YEAR-OLD male with cp seeks friendship with similar aged female, disabled or able-bodied. I have a caring nature, am fun loving with a good sense of humour. My interests are driving, music, socialising, and mind games. I prefer a non-smoker, and would appreciate a small photograph. Box No. 429.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend advertisement indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to Disability Now, address on page 3.

CONFERENCES

Disability, Teamwork and Independence 3 June 1992 - Kings Fund Centre

An Inter-Disciplinary Conference run jointly by RCGP and CAIPE to increase knowledge among professionals of the viewpoint of disabled people about assessment, intervention and inter-professional collaboration.

Registration open to disabled people and their carers, social workers, health care professionals, managers, GPs and other interested persons.

Fee £30 including lunch.

Details available from: RCGP Conferences. Tel: 071 823 9703. Fax: 071 225 3047

AUDITIONS



AUDITIONS FOR PERFORMERS 1992/93

GRAEAE THEATRE COMPANY, Britain's leading Theatre Company of disabled people, are currently seeking performers for their season of three touring productions during 1992/3.

Applications are welcome from all disabled people.

Applicants will be asked to attend an audition in London during the week of 4th May 1992. TO APPLY: Please forward a CV of your past experience, a current photograph, a covering letter outlining why you would like to work with Graeae and send to: Ewan Marshall, Artistic Director, Graeae Theatre Company, 25 Bayham Street, London NW1 0EY. Tel: 071-383 7541/7492 (Minicom available). (Please mark your envelope 'Performers' and enclose a stamped addressed envelope.)

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 24th APRIL 1992.

Please note that applications are welcome in braille, large print and on tape.

GRAEAE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

HIJINX THEATRE CO-OPERATIVE requires PUBLICITY/PROMOTIONS OFFICER

The successful applicant will have experience of booking and publicising tours for small-scale theatre and a knowledge of the Regional Arts funding structure in Wales and England.

Please write or telephone for job description and application form to:

HIJINX THEATRE CO-OPERATIVE, CHANNEL VIEW CENTRE, GRANGETOWN, CARDIFF, CF1 7NF. TEL: (0222) 395238.

HIJINX THEATRE CO-OPERATIVE tour 2 shows each year to community audiences and to people with learning difficulties. We are an ITC company and an equal opportunities employer.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 15th April 1992

COURSES

- ❑ Nationally validated vocational and higher education access courses in Media and Communications, Arts, Business Studies.
- ❑ Individual Study Programmes including flexible courses for students with complex learning needs and study difficulties.
- ❑ National Access Centre assessments of individual study needs and communications and study aids.
- ❑ Full range of general education and training courses including NVQ accreditation.
- ❑ Residential accommodation with 24-hour care, medical and nursing cover, Physiotherapy and speech therapy.
- ❑ Professionally equipped Supported Self Study Centre, Computer and 'State of the Art' Graphics Suites, Art and Photography Studios, Television and Video Production unit.
- ❑ Newly established business start-up opportunities.

Hereward COLLEGE

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

At
The National College for Students with Physical and Sensory Disabilities

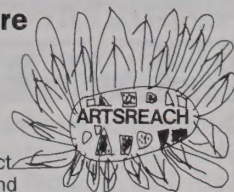


Hereward College of Further Education,
Bramston Crescent,
Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW
Telephone: (0203) 461231
Fax: (0203) 694305

Jacksons Lane Community Centre requires

A Co-ordinator for Artsreach

Salary: £14,624 p.a.



Artsreach is an arts educational outreach project running workshops for children, young people and their teachers within special education.

The successful applicant will have experience of the arts and special education and will be responsible to the Director for the co-ordination and administration of the project.

People with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply.

For further details please send an A4 s.a.e. to: Jo Irons, Artsreach, Jacksons Lane Community Centre, Archway Rd. London N6 5AA.

Closing date: Monday, 13th April 1992.



MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

RESEARCH · COUNSELLING · CARE

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

We have a vacancy within the Finance Department at Muscular Dystrophy Group HQ for a good all-round accounts assistant with at least two year's accounts experience. The applicant must be computer-literate and numerate and be able to handle book-keeping, carry out bank reconciliations, and maintain purchase, nominal and sales ledgers.

This position will be available from mid-May. If you are interested, please write for a job description and application form to Lyn Walker, Muscular Dystrophy Group, 35 Macaulay Road, London SW4 0QP.



eQUAL ARTS

Director of Programme & Planning

£16,791 Plus Car Allowance
(Plus re-location assistance)

Following a process of re-structuring, eQUAL ARTS, the northern region's arts and disability agency, requires a Director of Programme and Planning to manage its development programme and lead its advice, information, training and consultancy services in the northern region.

The post-holder (who will work in partnership with eQUAL ARTS' Administrative Director) requires: experience of programming and planning in the arts or related sectors, skills in staff management and knowledge of disability issues and arts development work.

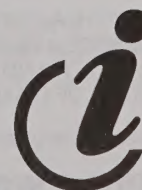
For further information and application form (no C.V.'s) please contact:

eQUAL ARTS,
Whinney House, Durham Road,
Low Fell, Gateshead,
Tyne & Wear NE9 5AR
TEL: 091 487 8892
(Voice & Minicom 5)
Fax 091 491 1352.

Information also available in braille, large print and on cassette on request.

Closing date for applications: 1st May 1992.

eQUAL ARTS is committed to achieving greater equality of opportunity in employment and other areas of its work. To address staff profiles within the organisation this post has been designated for a disabled person:- only disabled people need apply



Somerset Disability Information Federation

Development Officer

£15,066 - £16,068

Fixed term contract for 3 years

This is a new full-time post to

- * take a lead role in developing this fledgling Federation
- * identify the information needs of people with disabilities in Somerset
- * support local information and advocacy services.

We are looking for someone with

- * a commitment to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities and their carers
- * experience in information collection and dissemination
- * a reasonable level of computer literacy
- * experience of working closely with voluntary organisations

You will initially be based at County Hall, Taunton. A current driving licence is essential.

Applications from people with a disability are actively encouraged.

For an application form and further information, send an s.a.e. to: Don Archer, Planning and Info Unit, Somerset Social Services Department, County Hall, TAUNTON, Somerset TA1 4DY.

Closing date 27.4.92.

Interviews on 15.5.92.

40th Anniversary 1992

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Community Fundraisers Home Based
Birmingham/Solihull & London
£15,066 plus car (Inner London Weighting)

This is your chance to break from mundane routine and become part of a dynamic and exciting organisation established to provide services for people with cerebral palsy.

A growing demand for these services has presented a need to generate an increased level of voluntary income.

We now have two vacancies one to run the Birmingham and Solihull area and a second to run parts of London. These posts will suit self-motivated, creative people with excellent interpersonal skills. Working in the local community you will manage a fundraising programme and volunteers, which will generate income growth at an acceptable cost ratio. You will be expected to reach agreed targets employing a variety of fundraising techniques.

Fundraising experience would be an advantage but is not essential.

If job satisfaction is important to you then this may be the opportunity you have been looking for. Please apply in writing to Veronica Leighton at The Spastics Society, Shapland House, Clews Road, Oakenshaw, Redditch, Worcs B98 7ST enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope.

Closing date for applications 10th April.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY

RICA

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Development Manager

(Initial one year contract)

Since 1961 RICA has conducted research for disadvantaged people. RICA is now developing a new programme to produce unbiased guides to products and services for disabled and elderly people. These aim to be highly practical while having the authority of the exhaustive laboratory tests, surveys and user tests on which RICA's work is based.

The Development Manager will be responsible for developing and implementing a fund-raising strategy for RICA's programme of work and will be closely involved in its further development.

Candidates must be able to work with a busy team and with a variety of organisations. Corporate and Trust Fundraising experience essential. Experience of the disability field, an understanding of statutory and European funding, familiarity with research methods or the dissemination of information an advantage.

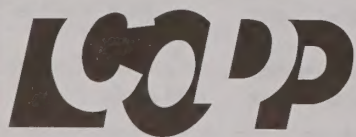
£15,000 for a 20 hour week, pro rata holiday, pension scheme and season ticket loan. Location London NW1.

Applications from people with disabilities are particularly welcome.

Full CV in confidence to Rosemary Broke Evans,
Charity Appointments, 3 Spital Yard, London E1 6AQ.

Charity Appointments

A registered charity serving the voluntary sector.



LAMBETH COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED LIVING,

UNIT 2, THE CO-OP CENTRE

11 MOWLL STREET, LONDON SW9 6BG

TELEPHONE NO. 071-735 7700

MINICOM & FAX NO. 071-735 7300

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH A PROJECT WHICH PROVIDES ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO DISABLED PEOPLE TOWARDS INDEPENDENT LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY AND SETTING UP ALTERNATIVE SERVICES UNDER THE CONTROL OF DISABLED PEOPLE?

LCOOP is setting up a Centre for Integrated Living and needs an:

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WORKER

Salary - £13,965 inclusive (pro rata)
17.5 hours per week

CIL is a new form of organisation through which disabled people themselves plan and deliver services to local disabled people. The Lambeth CIL is a project of LCOOP and is supported by Lambeth Social Services and West Lambeth and Camberwell Health Authorities.

The post holder will be someone who:

has a disability;
and will provide administrative support to ensure the efficient and responsive running of the project. The work will involve a range of administrative duties including: general clerical, handling petty cash, maintenance of records, use of Information Technology and general office equipment, etc.

The LCOOP has an Equal Opportunities commitment to respond to the needs of disabled people from all sections of the community. Applications are invited from disabled people irrespective of gender, race and ethnic origin and from disabled lesbians and gay men.

For information and application form contact the CIL office at the above address and telephone number.

Closing date: Friday 24th April 1992.

HOLIDAYS

Costa Blanca - Spain

Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 525133.

GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED

Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford
Nr. Barnstable, North Devon EX32 7PT
Telephone: 0598 710241
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible.
Equipment available.
Tourist Board 4 keys and commended.
Please contact: Valerie Boddington

SUNNY TENERIFE

Fully Accessible Mar y Sol

"Brilliant" says BBC TV
Holiday Apartments
Brochure: Lynne James Ltd, 7 Overpool Road,
Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

Try a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas. Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

Kings Sailing for the disabled. Sailing cruises for disabled and/or able bodied people. With only four guests to care for the skipper and crew can provide that most essential personal touch. Sit back and enjoy or become totally involved, the choice is yours. Most competitively priced. Details: Tom or Anne King 0305 821961. Or write to 55 Shepherds Croft, Portland, Dorset DT5 1DJ.

CHRISTCHURCH, BOURNEMOUTH. Holidays for persons requiring transport and accommodation. Specialising in holidays for the elderly and special needs. Inclusive of a door to door private transport service and daily tours in Dorset/Hampshire. Help always available. Write for details from Custom Leisure. Tel/fax (0202) 481003. 27 The Meridians, Stour Rd. Christchurch, Dorset. BH23 1RA.

The Access Holiday Guide '92 Edition

Enlarged & detailing many additional "Wheelchair Friendly Holiday Venues". Excellent value at £3.00 inc p&p from **Access Holiday Guide, 7 Roundberry Drive, Salcombe, Devon, TQ8 8LY.**

MAR Y SOL, Los Cristianos, Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios to rent or buy in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

HERNE BAY, KENT -

Three self-catering Mobile Homes, purpose built for w/c users, situated in beautiful grounds of Strode Park. For brochure contact: Mrs G. Drummond, Strode Park Foundation, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NE (0227) 373292.

YORKSHIRE DALES

Self-catering cottage adapted for wheelchair visitors. Newly converted barn on high moorland, between Pateley Bridge and Grassington. Beautiful views. Sleeps up to 5+2. Comfortable, well-equipped. Children, dogs welcome. Phone: (0423) 711747.

St Leonards, Sussex.

7 berth caravan adapted for disabled on "Haven" site.
For colour brochure tel:
Shepway M.S. 0304-366523.

ORLANDO FLORIDA. Large luxury adapted bungalow on golf course - free golf/tennis. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 10 mins airport, 20 mins Disney etc. Sheer heaven for independent/disabled traveller. Write to paraplegic owner - Sue Fisher, 5 Park Lane, Salford M7 0LB. Telephone now! 061-792 3029 for availability.

MOBILE REPAIR SERVICE

TECHNICAL SKILLS IN COMMUNITY CARE

SERVICE ORGANISER

Mobile carries out low-cost repairs for pensioners and people with disabilities in Islington and Hackney. It needs a P/T worker to organise the work for 4 technicians.

You will need good organising skills, experience of office administration, to be computer literate and to communicate effectively on the telephone. You will need an understanding of the needs of our users and of the special needs of the people from minority ethnic communities.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. We would welcome applications from people with disabilities as they are under-represented in the staff team.

Salary: £11,492 - 12,307 for a 26 hr week

Closing Date: 10th April 1992

Details from: M.R.S. 2 St Paul's Road, Islington N1 2QN.
Tel: 071 354-0557 (24 hrs).

WALTHAM FOREST EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY & FURTHER EDUCATION ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE

HEAD OF SPECIAL NEEDS SECTION

£20,547 - £23,223

To undertake Borough-wide responsibility for managing and developing an extensive programme of integrated and separate provision for people with physical and sensory disabilities, learning difficulties, and stress-related illness. You will have substantial teaching or management experience in Adult or Further Education and will have worked with students with special educational needs.

You will be committed to implementing equal access to education for people with disabilities.

Closing date: 27/04/92

REF:G152/DN

For an application form and further details apply to:
The Recruitment Team, Personnel Unit, Education Department,
Municipal Offices, High Road, London E10 5QJ.
Tel: 081-527 5544 ext. 5351.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

This posts is available for job share.

Job details are available on tape on request.

Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

YOUTH SERVICE

Principal Youth Worker (Disability)

£19,902 - £21,465. P02

This challenging new post has been established with a view to enhancing the response of Wandsworth Youth Service to the needs of young people with disabilities.

You should be qualified and able to demonstrate a wide experience of youth work preferably in this field and have an understanding of disability issues. The work will involve developing new initiatives across the Borough's general youth provision and supporting those groups who are currently working with young people with disabilities. There will also be opportunities for policy development and training.

Skills relevant to this job will include communication, evaluation, networking and curriculum development.

You will be based in premises which we intend to make fully accessible but due to the nature of the work it will be necessary for you to be mobile.

Application forms available from: **Leisure & Amenity Services Personnel Section, Town Hall, London SW18 2PU. Tel: 081-871 7795. Please quote reference: L/2164.**

Closing date: 16th April 1992.

Wandsworth

The Council as an Equal Opportunity Employer welcomes applications regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, disability or age. All applications are considered on the basis of their merits and abilities for the job.

HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS

RED CROSS HOUSE, INVERNESS, OFFERS RESPITE/HOLIDAY BREAKS FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES. COMFORTABLE SINGLE BEDROOMS. FRIENDLY STAFF PROVIDING 24 HOUR CARE. ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT TO EXPLORE TOURIST TRAILS AND ENJOY MANY LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. FOR BROCHURE AND FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, THE PRINCIPAL, **RED CROSS HOUSE, MACKINTOSH ROAD, RAIGMORE, INVERNESS IV2 3TX. TELEPHONE (0463) 234939.**

BRITTANY COTTAGE to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

Holiday facilities database is a new small computerised service which stores details of hotels in Dorset and Somerset. For £1.50, this new service has been specially designed to help you the disabled person find the right hotel. Please send only a SAE to Hill Dairy, Piddlehinton, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7TG or telephone (0831) 240780.

HOLIDAYS IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

Two self-catering caravans, fully adapted for disabled people in the Bridlington area. Two holiday guest rooms at Harrogate - double ensuite and single, fully adapted for disabled people, available for holiday/respice care at St. George's House - a residential/nursing home run by the Yorkshire Association for the Disabled. For further details apply St. George's House, 7-9 Harlow Oval, Harrogate. Tel: 0423 504360.

Applications invited for the
DILPOMA IN COUNSELLING

2 year part-time professional training commencing
September 1992.

Details from: **School of Health & Social Studies
Crawley College,**
College Road, Crawley, RH10 1HR
Tel: (0293) 612686 Ext. 331



**MANOR GARDENS CENTRE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROJECTS**

Salary P.O.1 £19,040 - 20,379

Manor Gardens Centre is an established Community and Health Centre in North Islington providing over 60 different services.

We wish to appoint an Assistant Director to supervise and facilitate the development of our existing projects, support our volunteers and initiate new projects to meet changing community needs. As a member of the management team the post holder will share responsibility for the co-ordination and development of the Centre as a whole.

The successful applicant will have a minimum of three year's youth or community work experience and two of supervision and management.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community, regardless of race, sex, sexuality and disabilities.

Telephone: 071 272 4231 for application details

Closing date - 10.00am: 21st April 1992

CHOICE HACKNEY

A SPECIALIST INFORMATION & ADVOCACY SERVICE
RUN BY AND FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.

This is a new user led project based in Hackney.

CHOICE wants to recruit disabled people for the following posts.

WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM DISABLED PEOPLE
FROM BLACK AND OTHER ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS.

2P/T ADVOCACY WORKERS.

(17 and a half hours pw £16,044 pa pro rata)

To work in partnership with Disabled People; linking individuals to all the services they require, in order that people can maintain control over their own lives.

Essential requirements include knowledge of Disability Rights and counselling skills.

S/He should be able to relate easily and sensitively on a one to one basis with both service users and providers.

For application forms and job description please write enclosing a large SAE to:
LUCILLE LUSK, CO-ORDINATOR, CHOICE HACKNEY,

c/o Disability Resource Centre, St. Leonards Hospital, Nuttall Street, London N1 5LZ.

Closing date for applications; 8th May 1992. Interviews will take place 22nd/26th May.

HACKNEY CHOICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

THIS IS A READVERTISEMENT.

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR
VACANCIES/COURSES**

please contact the
Advertisement Man-
ager, Richard Gresham,
Kingslea Press Ltd,
12 Dock Offices,
Surrey Quays Road,
London SE16 2XU.
Tel: 071-252 1362.
Fax: 071-237 8019.

Deadlines for May
issue: booking by 10
April, camera ready
artwork/copy by 14
April.

**NEWS QUIZ
ANSWERS**

1. She wanted to have an
abortion 2. Pat Buchanan 3.
Australian Prime Minister
Paul Keating 4. Warren
Beatty 5. 60 6. Nigel
Mansell 7. Peter Shilton
8. Stefan Kiszko 9. 50 per
cent 10. Rolf Harris

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Guide dog 5.
Pig 7. Inch perfect 10. Sock
12. Theta 13. Rouge 15.
Needing 17. Anthea 18.
Rota 19. Tinnitus 20. Nile
22. Test tubes
DOWN: 1. Glisten 2. Incre-
mental 3. Emphasis 4. Oars
5. Pick up the tab 6. Go 8.
For 9. Eco 11. ME 14.
Against 16. Lasses 18. Ring
21. ET

Jackson

Agents
required
part/full

time, all areas. Would suit ex
OTs, nurses or experienced
medical aid agents.

Contact Jackson Medical Ltd,
Units 15-16, Dyffryn Industrial
Estate, Newtown, Powys SY16
3AJ, tel: (0686) 627172.

Salford Law Centre

seeks a F/T SOLICITOR or 3-yr FILEX
for Immigration and Nationality work.

£16,595 p.a. (after parity); 35 hrs p/w;
30 days holiday; flexitime;
job share may be available.

Experience in immigration law not
essential; training can be provided.

Closing date: 5pm 21st April 1992.

Interview dates: 24th and 25th April.

Application forms and access details from:
498 Liverpool Street, Salford M6 5QZ.
Telephone/minicom 061-736 3116.

Salford Law Centre is striving to become
an equal opportunities employer.

FREE VIDEO TRAINING

For people under 25
with physical disabilities
Starts 4 June 1992 in
COLCHESTER, ESSEX.

Two days per week for three
months learning practical skills,
followed by work placement in the
industry. Some assistance
available for travel and
childcare costs.

Organised by Signals, Essex Media
Centre; funded by Eastern Arts
Board, Essex County Council and
Colchester Borough Council.

Contact Mike Ribbans at Signals,
21 St Peters St, Colchester C01
1EW. Tel: 0206 560255.

**PART-TIME
SECRETARY/ASSISTANT**

Arts and Disability
20.5 hours per week

The Arts and Disability Unit deals with a variety of strategic initiatives on
employment, training, physical access and the cultural framework for
disability arts.

We are looking for an experienced and capable secretary/assistant who will be
responsible for secretarial and administrative support to the Head of Arts and
Disability. Excellent word processing, minuting, prioritising and organisational
skills are essential. Applicants must also have an understanding of equal
opportunities issues and be committed to the work of the Unit.

Salary is on a scale of £5755-£7244.50 (including current secretarial
allowance) for a 20.5 hour week. The detail of hours worked is negotiable.
Annual leave 22 days per annum pro rata. Pension scheme.

For further details and an application form, please contact the Personnel Departments,
Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Alternatively, telephone 071-973
6448. (Details are available on tape.) Closing date for receipt of completed applications:
10th April 1992.

We are pleased to inform you that our building is accessible by
wheelchair.

The Arts Council has an Equal
Opportunities recruitment policy.
It warmly welcomes applications
from all sections of the community.



Disability Now

*The campaigning
newspaper for people
with all kinds
of disabilities*

Please **SUPPORT DN** by **SUBSCRIBING NOW**

DISABILITY NOW SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

Please return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent,
FREEPOST 17 London W1E 3HU with your remittance
made payable to
DISABILITY NOW. No stamp is needed.

NAME _____

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

Please tick ✓

I wish to become a
new subscriber to Disability Now ☐

Individual at
home address

One year (12 issues) £10 ☐
Two year (24 issues) £19 ☐

Organisations /
authorities etc.

One year (12 issues) £15 ☐
Two year (24 issues) £29 ☐

Overseas

One year Sterling £20 ☐

* Multiple _____ copies £ _____ 1year (12 issues) ☐

I/We enclose Cheque/PO ☐

A voluntary donation towards costs £ _____ ☐

I authorise you to charge my VISA ☐ ACCESS ☐
Account No. _____

Expiry Date ____ / ____ Signature _____

Telephone ACCESS/VISA account. no. to (071) 383 4575

Disability Now is a non-profit making publication. It is sent
free to disabled people on low income if they let us know.

* Multiple copies
2 copies £24, 3 copies £36, 4 copies £48, 5 copies £60, 6 copies £72,
10-50 copies £100, 51-100 copies £125. One year (12 issues) only.

**ADMINISTRATION
MANAGER**

£16,000-£18,000

The Administration Manager supports the Director and is responsible for ensuring the
smooth administration of this fast-growing employers organisation. Duties will include
maintaining all financial systems and our vitally important database. In addition, priorities
will include managing our membership services which include our member "helpline".

You will have excellent administrative and organisational skills, the ability to prioritise
effectively and the personality and temperament to cope with this demanding and
challenging role at the core of this very small, entrepreneurial, not-for-profit organisation.

SECRETARY

£12,500-£13,000

We also seek a skilled secretary; duties will include co-ordinating diary arrangements,
processing and drafting mail, minute taking and distribution of reports, liaison with suppliers,
as well as ad hoc administrative duties.

WP experience (preferably AppleMac) and audio ability combined with excellent
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We are an equal opportunities employer and particularly
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will be guaranteed to suitably qualified disabled applicants.

Please write with full CV to: Susan Scott-Parker, Director,
Employers' Forum on Disability, 5 Cleveland Place, London
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DISABILITY

Home adaptations stopped by cost

Many disabled people are going without essential adaptations to their homes - or settling for cheaper and often dangerous alternatives - because they cannot afford to contribute towards the cost, says a new report.

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) investigated how the Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) system - under which councils can give disabled people help with the cost of adaptations - was working from its beginnings on 1 July 1990 to 1 May 1991. The Government is currently doing its own review (see page 8).

Of the 116 questionnaires sent to councils in England and Wales, RADAR received 62 replies.

Unlike the old system, the new one means-tests applicants to find out how much they can contribute towards the cost. This, says the report, is the main reason why over half the councils had applications withdrawn.

Outgoings, such as mortgages, were not considered. And the resources of everyone living in the house were taken into account, rather than just

the disabled person.

"The financial implications of having to service a loan in addition to a mortgage with a high interest rate causes stress for many applicants and their families," says the report.

Only 20 councils were providing a 100 per cent grant to over half their clients.

Thirty four housing associations had each approved less than 50 applications between 1 July and 1 May 1991. The main reasons for the low rates, says the report, were:

- *the large number of withdrawals due to means testing
- *not enough occupational therapists to carry out assessments, leading to delays
- *councils not having enough money to pay for the number of adaptations required.

If not abolished, says RADAR, the means test should be amended to take into account expenses such as mortgages, rent and any additional costs related to disability, and it should apply to the disabled person only, or the parent or guardian if they are under 18.

It should apply to the disabled person only, or the parent or guardian if they are under 18.

The Disabled Facilities Grant, 80p, RADAR, tel: 071-637 5400.



Alice Heald spends in comfort at the Meadowhall shopping centre in Sheffield using its new Town and Country III electric scooter, donated for the free use of elderly and disabled shoppers by Booster Electric Vehicles of Huddersfield.

Drive for deaf students

Sunderland Polytechnic is launching a new drive to attract more deaf students.

The School of Computing and Information Systems is offering a note-taking service for lectures, sign language interpreters and radio aids, minicomms, and additional training for personal tutors.

Its first deaf student, Peter

Lunn, did the HNC course in computing last year and is now a computer programmer with the Department of Social Security.

The School has also created a new computer programme, available by the end of the year, to help deaf students with interviews and applications.

Arthritis 'ignored'

Arthritis costs Britain £1,200 million a year and affects 20 million people, yet it is getting little public attention, according to a new report.

The Office of Health Economics (OHE), a health research body set up by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, says the £1,200 million includes medical costs and personal costs, such as loss of earnings.

"Arthritis has been neglected," it concludes, "possibly because it rarely causes death and is often considered solely a disease of the elderly."

Despite being the leading cause of disability in Britain, says the report, arthritis was not mentioned in the Government's 1991 document, *The Health of the Nation*. This set targets for the reduction of conditions such as deaths from cancer.

The OHE suggests the Government could set targets in certain areas of arthritis, such as providing more rheumatology sessions, or giving patients more information on treatment, exercise and benefits.

Arthritis, by Mandy Wyles, £3, Office of Health Economics, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY.



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